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Clinton: Israel can count on our support

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies
WASHINGTON

US President Bill Clinton yesterday promised continued support for Israel as the peace process proceeds.

In a commencement address at the US Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut that focused on national defense, Clinton said that "there will be problems" periodically, because "the enemies of peace will show their own desperation with bullets and bombs."

"So I say this to the people of Israel: We've been with you every step of the way for the last three years. As Israel takes further risks for peace in the future, it can count on further manifestations of US support."

"We must be with you every step of the way until there is a comprehensive, lasting peace in the Middle East. Now is not the time to turn back, and the US must do its part."

Clinton has made it a mainstay of his Middle East policy to regularly, and publicly, reassure Israel that as it takes "risks" for peace, America would stand by it and help minimize those risks.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres responded to Clinton's remarks last night by saying, "Toda'h, haver" Israel Radio reported.

Meanwhile, talks on the Operation Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee scheduled for yesterday afternoon at the State Department were canceled at the last minute.

Israeli officials explained that the postponement was due to decisions still to be finalized in Middle East capitals on the monitoring committee's mandate, but would not say whether new difficulties had arisen.

The officials were unsure whether talks would resume today, or not until after the long Shavuot/US Memorial Day weekend.

(Continued on Page 18)

Shavuot starts tonight

THOUSANDS of people will stream to the Western Wall at dawn tomorrow to mark Shavuot, the one-day holiday commemorating the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai and the harvest of the first fruits - which begins at sundown tonight.

Among the customs marking Shavuot are all-night study sessions at synagogues and yeshivot around the country, the reading of the Book of Ruth, and the eating of dairy products.

Warm wishes for a joyful Shavuot to all our readers. The management and staff of The Jerusalem Post

The future existence of the Jewish state of Israel depends on YOU to vote and make others vote for the "right" party and the "right" prime minister.

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Jerusalem	6:56	8:16
Tel Aviv	7:14	8:18
Hairi	7:08	8:19
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Eilat	7:08	8:12



Dana Shimon, 21, a border policewoman, who was seriously wounded in the No. 18 bus attack on March 25, cuts a cake to celebrate her release from the hospital yesterday. Looking on are her grandmother Yocheved (l), and her mother Ilana. The last of the victims of that attack to be released from the hospital, she will receive outpatient treatment at Hadassah Hospital, Mount Scopus. (Brian Hendler)

State comptroller, A-G continue war of words

EVELYN GORDON

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair and State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat continued to exchange angry words yesterday, stemming from a dispute over whether Ben-Yair should have indicted Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer.

Meanwhile, a petition was filed in the High Court of Justice yesterday asking the court to order Ben-Yair to do so.

Ben-Yair fired the opening round in yesterday's hostilities, faxing a letter to Ben-Porat and the press.

"Your statements [that Ben-Eliezer should have been indicted] relate to the judgment of the prosecution," he wrote. "The prosecution's judgment is a matter for the courts to criticize. It is not a subject for the criticism of the state comptroller, the Knesset or any Knesset committee. To my sorrow, you were not careful to distinguish [between your private opinion as a jurist and your role as state comptroller], and by this error you led the State Control Committee to discuss matters outside its purview. Precisely because you are a jurist, I am sure that if you rethink your words, you will reach the conclusion that your behavior was out of line."

Ben-Porat, in a response which was also faxed to the press, reiterated that her statements were made in a closed committee session, and were never intended to reach the media. She also reiterated that the final decision is indeed Ben-Yair's, and not hers.

"But that does not obligate me to submit my judgment to yours," she continued. "I therefore do not retract a single one of my remarks."

The petition asking that Ben-Eliezer be indicted was filed by Theodore Weinsal, professor emeritus of organization and man-

agement at Tel Aviv University. Ben-Eliezer had been investigated on two counts: his alleged allocation of ministry funds to Arab villages to persuade their heads to support Labor's candidate for head of the Local Authorities Union, and his allocation of ministry funds to six institutions headed by Labor activists - including one, Beit Hapalmah, whose board he sat on - in violation of ministry rules, and at the expense of the projects the ministry is supposed to fund.

In the first case, the petition noted, Ben-Yair himself wrote that Ben-Eliezer's activities created the impression "of an undesirable intervention of party considerations into ministerial considerations," but decided Ben-Eliezer was innocent of criminal intent without the police even having questioned him.

Furthermore, it noted, Ben-Yair said there was no proof of a connection between Ben-Eliezer's sudden allocation of additional funds to six Arab villages and an agreement signed the day before stating that the Arab mayors would support Labor's candidate, who would in turn work to increase funds for Arab villages.

Ben-Eliezer, as head of Labor's campaign, helped negotiate this agreement, and the very proximity of the two events, when no such allocations had been planned before, was itself proof of a connection, the petition said.

Regarding the institutional allocations, the petition again noted that Ben-Yair decided Ben-Eliezer had no criminal intent without even letting the police question the minister.

Furthermore, it said, Ben-Yair's decision did not even mention one of the key points - that all six bodies were headed by Labor activists.

Gov't officials: Turkey satisfied with military pact

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

SENIOR Israeli officials were assured in Ankara yesterday that Turkey is not dissatisfied with the bilateral military cooperation agreement which has deepened ties between the two countries. Foreign Ministry officials insist.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry reportedly issued a statement to this effect last night, denying reported comments by Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz that the agreement did more harm than good.

Yilmaz, fighting to keep his fragile coalition in power in the face of an Islamic challenge, reportedly raised doubts about the accord, which has been criticized primarily by Syria and Iran. Two Turkish newspapers cited Yilmaz as telling his own party that the accord may have done more harm than good.

"The harm of this accord has outweighed its advantages,"

increase stability, peace and cooperation."

In February, Defense Ministry Director-General David Ivry and Turkish Deputy Chief of Staff Cevik Bir signed the bilateral military cooperation agreement which is widely believed to involve shared military training, exchange of observers, intelligence and an exchange of visits by aircraft and naval vessels. Israel will be permitted to use Turkish air space for training four weeks a year.

There have also been reports that the agreement includes exchange of intelligence cooperation against Iran, and Israeli technical support for Turkish efforts to stem infiltrations by Kurdish terrorists.

A full version of the accord has been reportedly printed in the last few days in the Islamic weekly *Akryon*. (Continued on Page 18)

Final election results may not be in until June 2

LIAT COLLINS

THE official election results might be announced only on Sunday, June 2, according to officials at the Central Elections Committee.

Not only is the vote counting expected to take longer this year because direct elections for prime minister are being held in addition to the Knesset elections, but the count of special votes will also take more time because it now includes hospital patients. According to CEC director Tamar Edri, by law results need only be published within eight days. If all the votes arrive early Thursday, the morning after election day, the committee should finish the count by Friday evening, she said. If the ballots arrive late and counting cannot be completed before Shabbat, the uncounted and unopened ballots will be stored under heavy guard at the CEC's Knesset offices until Saturday night.

The ballots of those who are eligible to vote

away from their allocated polling place - soldiers, prisoners, hospital patients, government officials abroad, and merchant seamen - will have to be checked to ensure that those who cast them have not voted twice.

Altogether, 3,933,250 people are eligible to vote, some 500,000 more than in the 1992 elections.

Edri said voters will not have their identity cards stamped as in the past, partly because some people have more than one ID card. Instead, the check will consist of being marked off the list at the allocated polling booth. Although citizens must present their identity cards to vote, they do not need to carry the voter's card (*tesdut bocher*).

All voters will be given two envelopes, a

blue one for the Knesset and a yellow one for the prime minister. The ballot slip for the Knesset is white; for the prime minister, yellow. Both envelopes must be returned and put in the polling box, even if someone chooses to leave one empty and not vote for both Knesset and prime minister. Edri stressed that blank slips are considered invalid and not counted, despite the popular belief that they are a protest vote. "You might as well stay at home, if you intend putting in a blank slip," she said. She also noted that there are still 21 parties running. Although Ahmed Tibi and one other member of his Arab Movement for Renewal list resigned Tuesday, the party continues to exist unless all the candidates announce they are withdrawing from the Knesset race. In the meantime, the party's political broadcasts will also continue to run.

First female combat unit completes basic training

THE first female combat unit since women fought side by side with men in the 1948 War of Independence graduated basic training yesterday, and included two Americans.

"My dream was always to come here and join the army," said Yifat Liva, who arrived in Israel five months ago from Los Angeles. "Now they're finally giving us a chance, and they see that we've succeeded."

Twenty-five women - among 430 recruits - celebrated the end of a three-month basic training course in the Border Police at the Beit Horon training camp, just north of Jerusalem. Women are still barred from combat roles in the IDF.

"I learned a lot," said Liva. "I feel a lot stronger, both emotionally and physically."

The women will perform all the same tasks as the men - except for patrolling Judea and Samaria.

"At first it was hard for them," said Liva about her fellow male troops. "They said we couldn't make it, but now they're really supportive."

"We're proud of our girls," said Eric Bar-Chen, the national police spokesman. "I wouldn't want to meet them in a dark alley."

The women said they won't stop at merely qualifying for combat. "I'd like to be an officer - definitely," said a graduate from Washington D.C. "I'd like to go to the men's officer school." (AP)

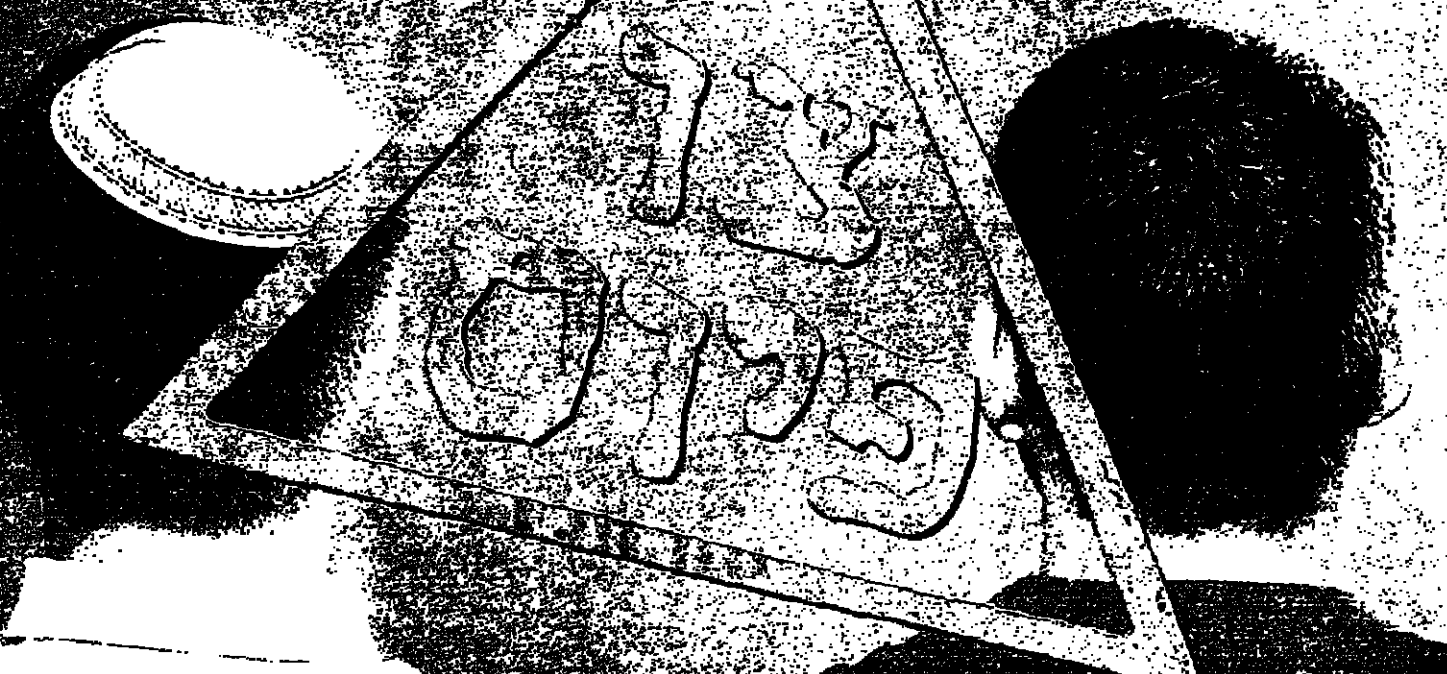
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PLO official: Abbas named Arafat's deputy and successor

SENIOR Palestinian official Mahmoud Abbas would succeed Yasser Arafat as head of the PLO were the Palestinian president to die, an official said yesterday.

On Tuesday, the PLO's ruling executive committee elected Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, its secretary-general, formally confirming his position as deputy to the 67-year-old Arafat.

"The executive committee has elected Abu Mazen as its secretary-general, and officially, according to PLO regulations, he acts as second man [to Arafat]. PLO information chief Yasser Abed Rabbo said yesterday.

Abbas, 61, one of the founders of the PLO and of Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction, was a main archi-

tect of the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace accord that led to self-rule in much of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"If, God forbid, something were to happen to Arafat, [on his death] Abu Mazen takes over," said the official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

Another PLO official said that Arafat designated Abbas his deputy four months ago in a step never made public.

The official said Abbas was already acting as the PLO's second-ranking official in the absence of Farouk Kaddoumi, formally the organization's foreign minister, who opposes the self-rule deal and remains in exile in Tunis. (Reuters)

Barak: We're satisfied with UN-Iraq deal

DAVID MAKOVSKY

FOREIGN Minister Ehud Barak last night expressed satisfaction with the recent UN-Iraq agreement that permits Baghdad to pump limited quantities of oil so it can use the revenue for humanitarian purposes.

In a talk to teachers in Haifa, Barak indicated that by dealing with immediate humanitarian problems, the agreement makes even more tenable the policy of the UN Security Council of maintaining the sanctions against the regime of Saddam Hussein imposed more than five years ago.

Iraq was one of the several topics Barak and Jordan's King Hussein discussed at the monarch's home outside of London on Tuesday. Other regional, peace process, and bilateral issues were also discussed.

At Hussein's request, there were no photos of the meeting, as he made it clear that he did not want to interfere in the Israeli elections. Officials in Jerusalem say this is the same reason Hussein refused Prime Minister Shimon Peres's request to visit Jordan last week.

Israel, PA reach agreement on airport for Gaza

Israel and the PLO reached agreement on Wednesday on a Palestinian airport to be built near Rafah in the Gaza Strip, security sources said.

They said government coordinator Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabar and senior Palestinian Authority official Jamil al-Tarif signed a memorandum of understanding on the establishment and operation of the airport in southern Gaza.

Israel will retain exclusive authority over security in the area of the airport, the sources said. Within a month the sides are to sign a protocol detailing airport operations and administration. (Reuters)



Palestinian journalists stage a strike in front of the Palestinian parliament in Gaza yesterday. They say they have been attacked by Palestinian authorities. (Reuters)

Palestinian journalists protest intimidation

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN journalists went on strike for two hours in Gaza yesterday, staying away from a meeting of the legislative council, to protest intimidation, mistreatment and bureaucratic stonewalling of their attempts to gather news.

In a separate development, a leading human rights activist was remanded for 15 days for talking to a foreign newspaper about the humiliation Palestinians feel under their own government, the first time this has happened.

The strike, called the first joint action by journalists, questioned the motives of the PA, which claims to accept freedom of the press except when articles are in the pay of foreign states.

"Everyone knows that there are some journalists who are spokesmen for foreign governments," explained Abed Alloum, spokesman for West Bank Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub.

Under this ruling, newspapers have been closed down for days or weeks, and pro-Jordanian and pro-Hamas journalists have been detained and sometimes sentenced to long jail terms.

Journalists returned to work

after Speaker Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala) agreed to air their complaints before the council.

Meanwhile, human rights activist Dr. Iyad Sarraj was remanded Tuesday for 15 more days by a midnight session of the special security court after being arrested for "libeling and spreading false information about the president and Palestinian Authority," an offense which can carry a jail term of three years, said Sarraj's lawyer Raji Sourani.

Sourani said he was not present at the hearing. The remand indicates that the public prosecutor intends to press charges, which would be the first against a human rights activist.

Sarraj, a psychiatrist, is director of the Independent Palestinian Commission for Citizens' Rights and founder of the Gaza Mental Health Center. He was arrested on Saturday after an interview with *The New York Times* in which he described the Oslo accords as "psychological surrender," and the human rights situation as "100 times worse" than under Israeli occupation because Palestinians are now facing abuse from their own government.

US human rights group: Israel, Hizbullah targeted civilians

BOTH Israel and Hizbullah directly targeted civilians in last month's fighting in south Lebanon, showing "willful disregard for international humanitarian law," a human rights group said yesterday.

At least 165 people, most of them Lebanese civilians, were killed and 338 wounded in the fighting.

"Civilians are not just the victims of this conflict but have been rendered pawns in the hands of the belligerents," the US-based Human Rights Watch said in a report. "The conflict is often brought deliberately to civilian areas, and... combatants on both sides often employ weapons in a highly indiscriminate manner."

Israeli government spokesman Uri Dromi denied that Israel had targeted civilians or violated international law, and said Operation Grapes of Wrath was "self-defense" after Hizbullah repeatedly fired Katyushas into northern Israeli towns.

"We made all efforts not to harm civilians," he said.

IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Amos Gilad said the report presented an "unbalanced picture." "The report makes almost no mention of the fact that the majority of Hizbullah attacks were, first and foremost, directed against innocent Israeli civilians," he said. "Such attacks constitute a blatant violation of the laws of war."

A Hizbullah spokesman in Beirut said the group is studying the report and did not have an immediate comment.

Human Rights Watch, an independently funded organization that conducts human rights investigations worldwide, said the US, as the supplier of most of Israel's weaponry, "must share the responsibility for its misuse."

It also criticized Syria and Iran for helping supply Hizbullah with Katyushas. (AP)

Group calls for winners not to trample losers

HERB KEINON

A GROUP of intellectuals from the left and right, religious and secular, issued a joint document yesterday calling on both sides of the political spectrum to behave charitably to the other if they win the elections.

"We are aware that in Israeli society there are different Zionist dreams, which in many ways contradict one another," the document released at a Jerusalem press conference read. "We should work so that even if one side is victorious over the other, it's achievements will not lead to the trampling of the other group. Therefore we should agree before hand on moderation, on a softening of style, and the giving up the full realization [of goals] upon victory."

The manifesto was signed by 27 people, ranging from Rabbi Shlomo Aviner from Bet El and Rabbi Yehoshua Zukerman from Yeshivat Metcázar Harav on the right, and AB Yehoshua and Aryeh (Lova) Eliav on the left.

Avi Ravitzky, one of the signatories, told a Jerusalem press conference that those who signed the manifesto will be involved in a group that will try to keep lines of communication open between both sides of the political camp, and will - in times of crisis - try to cool tempers down.

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הקולות שלכם

UTJ, Shas: We didn't endorse any PM candidate

HERB KEINON

BOTH United Torah Judaism and Shas went to great pains yesterday to convince supporters that reports their rabbis have come out in favor of one prime ministerial candidate or the other are greatly exaggerated.

"All media reports regarding the position of the Torah and Hassidic leaders concerning elections for prime minister that have flooded the media over the last few days are baseless, and are meant only to cause confusion in the haredi community," United Torah Judaism said in a statement that was quoted on the front page of yesterday's *Yated Ne'eman*.

The press has, in the last few days, reported that Degel Hatorah's leading rabbis had decided to back Benjamin Netanyahu, and were just waiting for the right opportunity to declare their endorsement.

"The haredi community that is always completely faithful to the Torah greats, should not pay attention to these baseless reports," the statement read.

While UTJ was denying that its rabbis have already endorsed Netanyahu, Shas was busy denying that Rabbi Ovadia Yosef was either going to endorse, or vote himself, for Shimon Peres.

Deri was quoted in today's edition of the Shas paper *Yom Le'Yom* as telling party activists that "Rabbi Ovadia Yosef said that he will not in any way indicate who to vote for for prime minister. He was not even willing to tell those who are the closest to him who to vote for, saying that 'I will not interfere.'"

Deri told the activists that it is possible that the Likud planted the stories about Yosef's inclination to Peres, apparently to sow fear among Shas voters and steer them away from the party, and into the Likud's ranks.

One rabbi who does not have any compunction about endorsing a candidate is renegade Yosef Azran, now head of the new Telem-Emunah party. This party yesterday came out with a clear endorsement of Netanyahu.

20,000 police to be on duty on Election Day

SOME 20,000 police will be dispatched nationwide on Election Day to safeguard polling stations and the public, Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said yesterday.

Three days prior to Election Day, the territories will be completely sealed to thwart possible infiltration by terrorists, he added. Despite warnings of planned terror attacks, Hefetz assured people they could relax and go about their normal business.

So far, noted Hefetz, 120 election-related criminal probes have been launched. The most serious case, the shooting of Arthur Yurovsky by Likud activists, has been closed, and the file has been transferred to the District Attorney's Office, said Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Gabi Lask.



National Religious Party MKs Zevulun Hammer (standing) and Shaul Yahalom went to Bar-Ilan University yesterday to congratulate NRP candidate Nati Kochavi on his victory in the Student Union elections. (Yossi Zelig/PPA)

Netanyahu raps reported Peres plan to free prisoners for Arab support

LIKUD prime ministerial candidate Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday strongly condemned reported plans by his rival Prime Minister Shimon Peres to free imprisoned terrorists in exchange for the Arab parties' endorsement of his candidacy.

"This would pose a very clear danger to the country's security and this is being done for no other reason than to win votes, as are other blatant moves. The country's security must not be jeopardized for electoral purposes," Netanyahu said during a campaign tour.

The Likud, meanwhile, petitioned the High Court of Justice to issue an immediate injunction against the Labor Party's plan to allocate NIS 10 million to Arab local councils in return for the Arab parties' public endorsement of Peres's candidacy.

The Likud charges that such an allocation of funds constitutes "blatant bribery of the voter." Netanyahu also pointed to press reports about "a new plan in Labor to call some towns outside Jerusalem the Palestinian capital so that Arafat could claim that this was Jerusalem too and that he had a capital in Jerusalem. This attempt to create a second Jerusalem to pacify Arafat is more than absurd. There will never be a second Jerusalem but only one indivisible capital of Israel."

Netanyahu also reacted to an acerbic attack which Peres launched on him yesterday because of the Likud contention that there are secret dealings with Arafat over Jerusalem. Netanyahu noted the video recording the Likud produced showing Arafat speaking of precisely such a deal before a throng of 50,000 in Nabulus. "If this is all so unfounded, why does Peres not call Arafat's lie? Why does Peres not call Arafat a liar?" Netanyahu asked. "Peres is resorting to personal slights and

insults instead of telling the nation the truth and answering the very real questions and issues before us."

In Or Akiva, Peres said that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal, undivided capital and called the Likud's campaigning on the issue scandalous. He said that the Likud, for

the sake of a few votes, was creating the impression that half the nation was willing to divide the capital.

Netanyahu yesterday also picked up a couple of important rabbinical blessings.

Likud, Labor agree on debate format

SARAH HONIG

THREE days before the ballots are cast, prime ministerial candidates Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu will face off for a half-hour debate - of sorts. The terms were finally agreed upon late Tuesday night by the two sides after days of haggling.

The moderator will be Dan Margalit of Channel 1's *Popolitika* fame. He announced yesterday that he alone will formulate the questions and that no one will know what they are until the taping of the interview itself at 11 a.m. on Sunday. The general public will get to see the end result at 8:30 that evening.

The Likud won the coin toss that enabled it to choose between having the event at its Neve Ilan studio but letting Peres have the last word, or having it at Labor's Tel Aviv studio and letting Netanyahu have the last word.

The Likud strategists opted for the last word for Netanyahu. Peres will get to speak first.

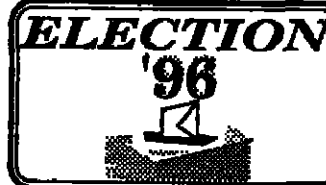
Much of the hard bargaining between the sides revolved around the Likud's demand that the two

candidates do more than just address the speaker and launch into their own prepared monologues. But according to the final agreement, this is roughly how it will be. Margalit will ask the questions and each contestant will get 90 seconds to reply. The camera will focus only on the speaker and moderator but not on the listening rival.

The only exception will come at the end, when according to the Likud's demand the candidates will each get to pose a single question to each other.

Before the questioning starts, each candidate will get allotted a minute and a half for his personal message. Next will follow two different questions for each candidate which Margalit will prepare. The reply to each of these questions will last 90 seconds. Then will come a follow-up question in which 60 seconds will be allowed for the answer.

Margalit will then put two more questions to each candidate, but this time there will be no follow-up



question to the 90-second replies.

After the candidates' questions to each other, during which 90 seconds will be allocated for a response, each will be given 90 seconds for a final personal message.

In the Likud it is well known that Margalit openly supports Peres, as is very clear from the numerous opinion pieces he publishes in *Ha'aretz*. However, it is hoped that precisely because his own political inclinations are so well-known, Margalit will have to make an effort to be fair.

Both candidates are expected to be intensively coached throughout the weekend. This is seen as the culmination of a very sluggish campaign but, as Margalit said yesterday, "it is hard to see how such a debate can live anything up at this very late stage in the game."

SARAH HONIG

Rabbi Haim Kanievsky - one of those closest to Degel Hatorah mentor Rabbi Eliezer Schach - received the outright endorsement of the Sephardi Telem Emunah, one of whose patrons Kanievsky is.

Netanyahu was also received by Rabbi Meir Mazuz, one of the

members of Shas's Council of Torah Sages who is particularly influential in the Tunisian community. Rabbi Mazuz went so far as to issue a directive to his followers which not only endorses Netanyahu but forbids them from voting for Peres or abstaining.



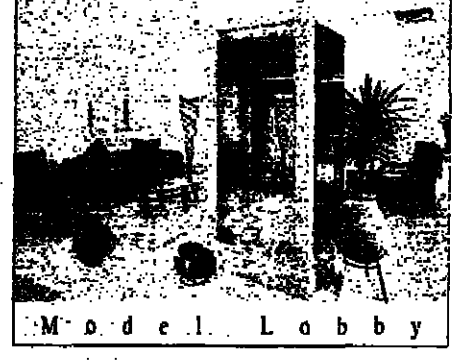
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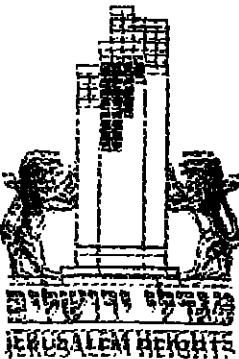
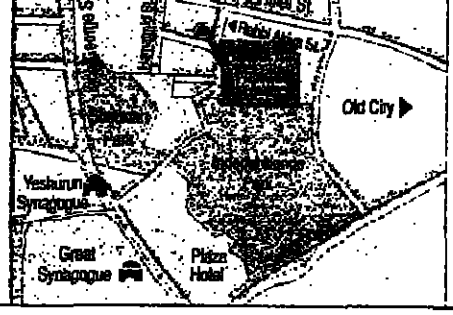


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It's just common sense

IT has been my privilege to participate in every election since the establishment of the state.

Indeed, on a difficult and violent occasion in 1981, I headed the information campaign for the Labor Alignment which succeeded in converting 32 seats in the Knesset to 47 seats. Nevertheless, Labor failed to create a government.

There has never been an election campaign in which the voter faced so vital and unambiguous an issue as in these elections. And yet in no campaign can I remember the debate being so uninspiring. Some central parties have gone so far as to ignore the main issues facing the country.

The Likud has adopted a policy of repeating daily, on every occasion, a clear statement about the other side's policy without proving anything, and despite the assertion by the opposing party that the allegations are untrue.

There has, indeed, been a general policy of repeating slogans that lack any basis, on the assumption that by dint of repetition they will sink into the public's consciousness.

The political struggle has not been a serious one. Slogans are slogans and nothing more; they cannot replace policies and facts, and it is very regrettable that the debate has been dragged down to this level without any real comprehensive debate on the issues.

Labor has presented a detailed plan. If the party is elected, it will decide the fate of our people. Labor's plan points clearly to the direction in which we are moving, indicating the possible results, and stating the price.

And the opposition? It has revealed that the public sincerely desires peace; and has come up with a slogan promising "Peace with Security."

I can think of no similar example in the history of politics

CHAIM HERZOG

where a slogan like "Peace with Security" is presented to the public without anyone taking the trouble to explain how it can be achieved. There is simply no argument to base it on, and it is common knowledge that the Likud - unlike Labor - has never seriously debated the issue.

NOBODY can point to an internal debate of any standing or significance on the right wing - despite the fact that we are talking about our future in this country.

On the one hand, there is a peace plan being implemented which has already given Israel special standing in the Middle

The choice lies between people who know where they are going and what it will cost, and 'men for all seasons'

East and, indeed, throughout the world.

Nothing emphasized this special standing better than the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin. It highlighted the achievements of Rabin and Shimon Peres both in the Middle East and on an international scale.

With this policy, we know what we have achieved and in which direction we are moving - with the additional safety valve of a national referendum both regarding the negotiations with the Palestinians and the Golan Heights.

On the other side, all we hear is the "Peace with Security" slogan. And all one knows is that the Likud has no intention of continuing the peace process as promul-

gated by the Labor Party. Surely the nation deserves to know more. Are we planning to send our troops back into Gaza and the West Bank towns or not? Are we returning to the tragedy of the intifada? Will our soldiers be condemned to patrolling the casbah in Nablus?

Are we going to expand the security zone in Lebanon to the banks of the River Litani, as proposed by Rafael Eitan only recently? Will the Likud talk to Arafat? Will the national priorities return to those of '92?

The only element on the right that is truly unambiguous is Mokedet. All the rest have cloaked themselves in vagueness and hidden behind baseless slogans.

The choice facing the voter is clear cut. It lies between supporting a policy which has already brought peace with Jordan and a partial peace with the Palestinians - with every intention of proceeding in the same direction - and opting for a political coalition dominated by uncertainty and very unclear as to its policy.

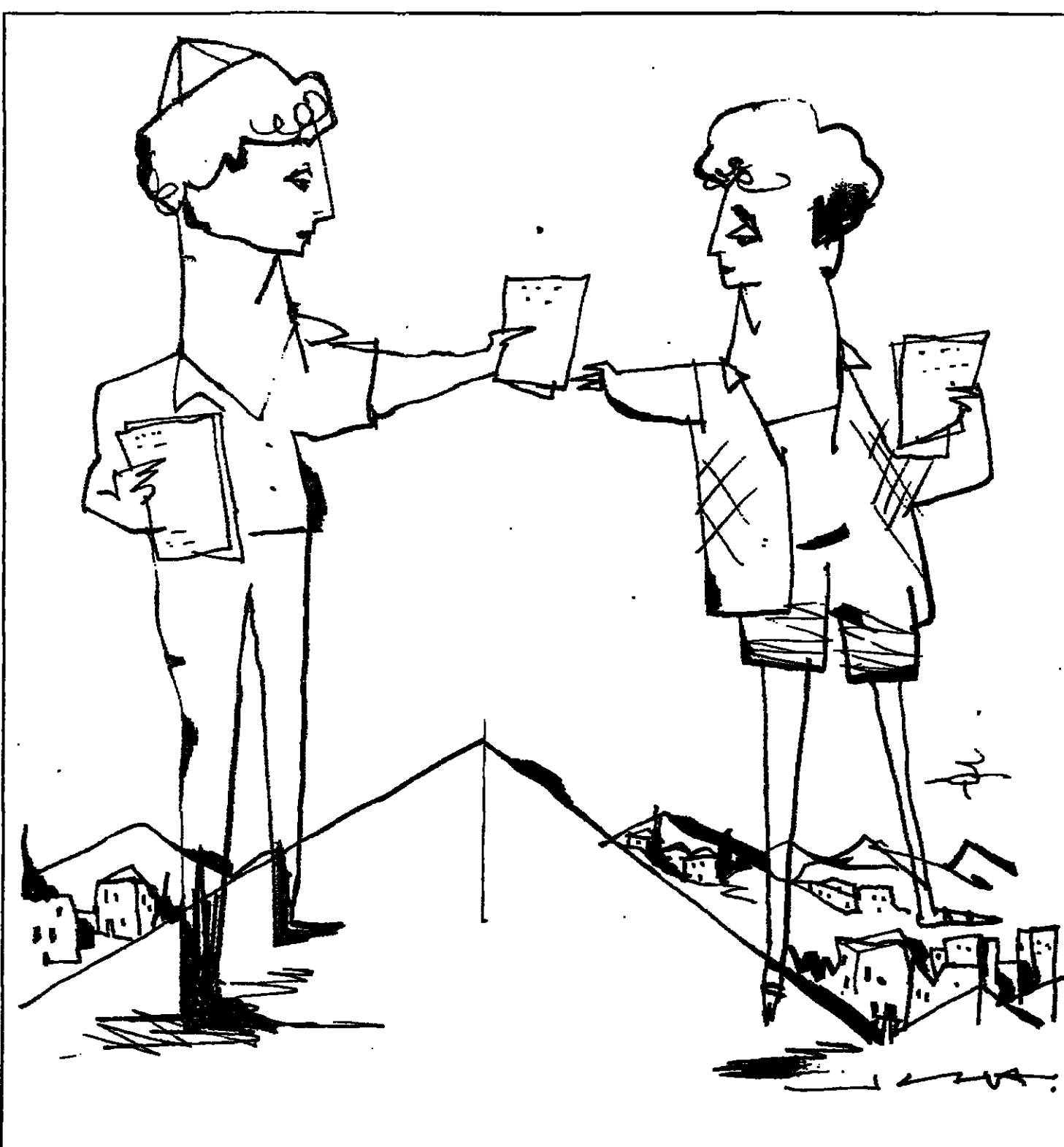
The nation has to decide on a prime minister. Labor, which has made great strides toward peace, is led by a man whose qualities I can testify from close cooperation over a period of 50 years.

Shimon Peres has done more than any leader, apart from his teacher and mentor David Ben-Gurion, to create and guarantee our technical and military strength and power of deterrence.

He is faced by a loose and unhappy coalition, the different components of which pull in various directions, while its leaders endeavor to become "men for all seasons."

I believe that national common sense will prevail.

The writer was Israel's sixth president.



An exposure of indecency

RUMORS concerning the death of the Palestinian Covenant were exaggerated and premature. It was a hoax that Shimon Peres termed "the most significant ideological development in the Middle East in the last 100 years."

Nevertheless, evidence that none of the covenant's articles has been canceled cannot be avoided. Very convincing proof that the covenant is still in effect was supplied by some 30 Middle East experts, who recently published full-page ads proclaiming "the whole truth about the nullification of the Covenant."

Those who financed the ads hoped to prove that the PLO had fulfilled its commitments, but the ancient, ironic fate of the prophet Balaam struck them again.

The Zionists cautiously concluded that the resolution taken by the Palestinian National Council "is an important step towards the redrafting of the covenant, in accordance with the PLO's commitments, and we expect that it will be compatible with the peace process."

Clearly those experts believe the covenant is still valid, which is why they only expressed the modest hope that it would be changed, positively, in an unknown manner, in some unknown future.

Following the recent session of the Palestinian National Council, the mainstream PLO group, Fatah, circulated an internal document which asserted that, "The text of the National Covenant remains as it was, and hitherto no change was made in it."

This practical conclusion is accompanied by a convincing ideological argument: "The articles that negate Israel's right to exist are those articles that call for the liberation of Palestine, that is - their nullification would signify the cancellation of the goal, for the sake of which the PLO was born. From a Zionist and Israeli point of view, the intent was that the PNC issue a certificate testifying to its own death, and to the suicide of the PLO."

The document, dated April 1996, and revealed this week by Peace Watch, was issued by the moderate, main PLO Fatah faction directly commanded by Arafat.

The spirit of this internal document was openly reflected in several interviews given to Arab newspapers by PNC chairman Salim Zaanoun since the council's "historic" meeting. In a recent one (An-Nahar, May 16) Zaanoun openly stated that "there are no specific articles whose cancellation has been decided upon."

The circumstantial evidence would be more than enough to obtain a conviction in any court, but Arafat's Israeli partners cannot afford to let him be declared guilty so close to the elections. "Show us," they insist, "direct proof that the PNC resolution was a premeditated sham."

ZE'EV B. BEGIN

would need the protocol of what the PNC members were told prior to the vote on the covenant - and that "historic" PNC session was a closed one.

The truth about the PLO Covenant is deceit, forgery and a cover-up

However, this week the incriminating evidence was obtained. In Jerusalem the Institute for Peace Education presented a videotape, filmed during the course of the secret meeting, showing Zaanoun addressing the PNC, with Arafat on his right. Zaanoun explained the meaning of the resolution which he would bring to the vote a few minutes later: "If we choose to amend those articles which it is demanded we amend, we pay a very high price. [But] if we take the step of preparing a new program, the damage is smaller than that of the first solution; but going into the details of the matter would mean rendering free services."

The wording that was determined is among the least damage that we can do; it will give us an extension of six months, until the Central Council convenes. It will discuss this issue, and has the right to say: We leave the matter to the National Council."

WHAT IS clear before our eyes today was obvious to the PNC members then. Zaanoun's words prove beyond any doubt that the PLO leadership intended to deceive, leaving their fundamental document, which negates the Jews' right to a state, intact.

A minute before the vote, the PNC chairman attached an intolerable price-tag to the proposition that the criminal articles be canceled. He proposed an alternative, describing it as a trick that would enable

the PLO unlimited deferral on the issue of amending the covenant.

To refrain from "rendering free services" to those Israelis who oppose the Oslo agreement, Zaanoun did not detail the trick, but the PNC members, readily convinced that the proposed resolution would roll back and forth forever while the PLO leaders winked and laughed among themselves, didn't need the details. Zaanoun's speech is decisive proof in a series of proofs, of the kind only a stubborn Labor propagandist would disregard.

The whole Palestinian Covenant is, verily, still in effect, and the PLO considers terror an instrument with which it can realize its goals. And the PLO will strike.

In the last month, Shimon Peres has worked diligently to obstruct attempts to reveal the truth about the PLO. Before the PNC convened, the government told the PLO the resolution it expected the council to pass. The government guided Arafat in the writing, in English - and here Arafat cheated again: the PNC confirmed an unacceptable formulation in Arabic.

Then, in order to protect the Oslo process, the prime minister made use of a document that was forged by the PLO, in a conspiracy with our government - a falsified English translation of the PNC resolution.

The premier's desperate attempts, so near elections, jibed well with similar efforts on the part of journalists and their editors, who supplied headlines and reports in support of the government's deception, lacking all journalistic skepticism.

To no avail. One seldom comes across such rapid exposure of the truth, on such a vital issue.

The writer is a Likud MK.

Virtual exchange of scripts

WHAT should be the role of Torah in the running of the Jewish State?

While the political debate between Meretz and the religious parties rages on, a quiet revolution has been taking place, effecting, in a more fundamental way than politics, the Torah-state relationship.

The head of the IDF's manpower division reported recently that the motivation of religious soldiers far exceeds that of their colleagues.

An increasing percentage of officers and those serving in elite combat units are religious. There were a large number of *kipot* on the heads of those in the Israel Aircraft control room monitoring the progress of Israel's just-launched Amos satellite.

All Jews, religious or otherwise, are equally Jewish, and it would be wrong even to notice who wears a *kippa*, except to observe that something significant is happening in the role religion is playing in the State of Israel.

The expanding involvement of the religious community in the development and defense of the state, in positions not by definition religious, reflects a new reality: Commitment to the state, and a willingness for self-sacrifice in its defense and settlement have become linked with religious idealism both in fact and in the public mind.

Not long ago, the image of the Zionist pioneer settling the land and fighting off hostile Arabs was that of Paul Newman portraying Ari Ben Canaan in Leon Uris's

JONATHAN BLASS

Exodus: earthy, pragmatic, daring - and certainly not devout. The yeshiva student, on the other hand, was perceived as waxen-faced and weak, living in a spiritual world of his own, rejecting everything but Torah study as mundane and trivial.

The image has changed, nearly to the point of reversal. Antagonism toward yeshivot and their students has not disappeared, but more often than not it is directed at their militancy in support of the very same values

previously associated with the secular pioneer.

Last week it was reported that Prime Minister Peres had criticized rabbis from Agudat Yisrael for giving what he thought was too much weight to the territorial dimension of Judaism, at the expense of other, more spiritual aspects.

It is important to recall in this context that Peres is the standard-bearer of a party that was once at the forefront of the secular Zionist effort to secure and cultivate the land of Israel "dunam by dunam, goat by goat," that, abandoning more traditional religious values, emphasized the significance of the physical and political redemption of the land.

Now Peres insists that Israel's greatness will be measured only

by its spiritual, intellectual achievements and lambasts the religious for embracing the more down-to-earth values that, in the not so distant past, were castigated for dismissing, in favor of more ethereal, religious goals.

HAVE Labor and the religious parties exchanged scripts? Almost. What has happened is that the nation has matured, outgrowing the inspirational capacity of secular nationalism.

Higher motivation and transcendent

Something significant is happening to the role of religion in the State of Israel

Jews to view nature and history as possessing an immanet sanctity, revealed through Torah observance.

In what for the Jewish people were the, utopian surroundings of the Diaspora, wrote Rabbi Kook, the Torah and its commandments could only be an imposition of an alien spirituality on a hostile environment, sanctity pitted against nature.

In Israel, however, sanctity and nature go hand-in-hand, and the natural world is appreciated for its spiritual significance.

The Torah of the Land of Israel motivates not only yeshiva students but soldiers, scientists, farmers, and economists to participate in the sacred mitzva of defending and building the Land and the People of Israel.

The first stage of Zionism was fueled by a secular nationalism that, with its complexion, has been dismissed as no longer adequate, as materialistic.

Its rejection is a call to the spirit, like in Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones, not to replace the body that has been formed, but to be powerful enough to excite it into life.

Are we seeing the first stirrings? Is it this summons that challenges the nation today.

The writer, rabbi of Neveh Tzaf in Samaria, heads Ratzon Yehuda, a rabbinical training program for graduates of Yeshivot Hesder.

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Russia says dozens of men lost in Chechen battle

ACHKHOI-MARTAN, Russia (Reuter) - Russian forces suffered dozens of casualties yesterday fighting Chechen rebels holed up in a Soviet-era missile silo designed to withstand nuclear attack.

Flashes of light and palls of smoke rose from the rebel stronghold of Bamut and from the foothills above it, visible from the town of Achkhoi-Martan 15 km away.

At least seven helicopter gunships and artillery battered the village in what Russian television says is the 10th attempt to take Bamut since President Boris Yeltsin sent forces to halt the region's independence bid in December 1994.

Interfax quoted a military source as saying 40 soldiers were killed near Bamut, 40 km southwest of the capital Grozny, in the biggest attack in weeks in the mainly Moslem region on Russia's southern rim.

Russian planes bombed rebel-held hills overlooking Bamut during the night, smashing windows in Achkhoi-Martan.

The military says up to 1,000 guerrillas seeking independence

from Moscow are entrenched there, and attempts to flush them out of a labyrinth of concrete corridors which used to house medium-range missiles have proved futile.

Interfax earlier quoted a military spokesman as saying 22 Russian soldiers had been killed and 48 wounded in hand-to-hand fighting after rebels broke through their lines under cover of dark. He said rebels also lost an unknown number of casualties.

Itar-Tass news agency later quoted the Defense Ministry in Moscow as saying about 120 rebels were killed, and put the Russian death toll at 16. Both sides have tended to exaggerate casualties in their favor in the past.

It was not clear how the fighting would affect Yeltsin's plans to visit Chechnya in a bid to restart peace talks and restore his standing with liberals angered by the 17-month-old campaign in which more than 30,000 people have been killed.

Rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, quoted by Interfax, urged Russia to "take realistic steps to stop military actions and withdraw troops from Chechnya."



Relatives wait to identify their kin in the Bugando hospital in Mwanza, Tanzania. Hundreds were feared dead as rescue teams searched for survivors from the ferry that capsized. (Reuter)

Little hope of survivors after crowded ferry sinks in Lake Victoria

AN overcrowded ferry that capsized on Lake Victoria was listing badly when it set sail, crammed with passengers who defied warnings to stay ashore, survivors said yesterday.

Late yesterday, the government said 549 of the 663 people aboard the ferry were presumed drowned when the ship went down Tuesday. It said there were 114 known survivors.

Rescue boats floated idly on the lake yesterday, circling an oil slick that formed from the ship's fuel. Searchers who pulled 29 bodies from the water offered little hope of finding more survivors.

The state-owned MV Buboka sank 12 kilometers from port at Mwanza in Africa's largest lake. President Benjamin Mkapa said the ship was meant to carry no more than 441 people.

KARIN DAVIES
MWANZA, Tanzania

The boat was so crowded at the dock in Bukoba that police stopped any more passengers from boarding, Tanzanian newspapers quoted survivors as saying. But some passengers traveled by automobile to meet the ferry at the next port, Kemono, and boarded there, survivors said.

When the ferry left Kemono it was listing badly, rider Kamuli Magolenga said.

"Then before it capsized, passengers moved to the right, and then to the left... and we went down," Magolenga told *Nipashe*, a privately owned Swahili-language newspaper.

The ferry sank within sight of shore, amid floating islands of water hyacinths.

The only sign of the accident

today was the oily sheen from leaking fuel.

Early news reports said the ferry hit a rock, but the state Tanzania Railways Corp., which owned and operated the ship, said it did not. Survivors said many victims were trapped below deck when the ferry capsized.

Mkapa, Tanzania's president, declared three days of mourning, and flew to Mwanza. At a memorial service for the dead, he told thousands assembled at a soccer stadium: "I've come to sympathize with those who've lost friends and family, to bring condolences from all of Tanzania."

He said he ordered divers to Mwanza to cut open the hull of the ship and free the bodies trapped inside.

The flag at the stadium was flown at half-staff, as were flags across the country. (AP)

Nazi confronted in court by victims' relatives

ROME (Reuter) - Italians still grieving for loved ones killed more than 50 years ago in a German SS massacre gave emotional testimonies yesterday at the trial of a former Nazi accused of helping organize the atrocity.

Giulia Spizzichino collapsed in tears after testifying how seven men in her family were rounded up and shot at the Ardeatine Caves near Rome on March 24, 1944.

They were among 335 Italian men and boys killed at the caves in retaliation for a partisan bomb attack in Rome the day before which killed 33 soldiers of German occupying forces.

Spizzichino and other victims' relatives testified at the trial in military court in Rome of former SS captain Erich Priebke, 82, who prosecutors contend was one of the atrocity's chief organizers.

Anna Maria Proserpi, who was five when her father was killed, showed the court a photocopy of a rent receipt found on his body at the caves on which he had scribbled "Antivederci" (goodbye) to his wife and children.

"The body of my father was found intact, the bullet probably just grazed his neck and he died later, who knows how much later," Proserpi said.

Rosina Stame confronted Priebke from the witness stand after testifying how her father, a noted opera singer and partisan commander, was killed at the caves.

"You killed these people, but you will never kill the spirit they died for," she said.

Military prosecutor Antonio Intellisano had planned to close his case against Priebke with testimony from Dietrich Beelitz, 89, who had coordinated Nazi activities in Rome with Berlin headquarters.

But Intellisano told the court that Beelitz would not be appearing.

"Interpol informed me just yesterday that he cannot make the journey for health reasons," the prosecutor said, without giving details of the illness.

Beelitz, who lives in Stuttgart, Germany, was to have testified to the crucial question of how big a role Priebke played in the massacre.

Britain goes on diplomatic offensive over beef ban

LONDON (Reuter) - Britain went on the offensive against Europe yesterday, setting up a crisis committee under Prime Minister John Major to coordinate its new strategy of paralyzing European business until a beef export ban is lifted.

Ambassadors were told to explain immediately to foreign governments why Major had lost patience over Europe's failure to lift the ban and to prepare for a diplomatic assault on European capitals by ministers in coming weeks, officials said.

Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind gave a warning that Britain was determined to carry out its threat to paralyze European Union business unless it gets agreement on ending the ban soon.

"We're not posturing here... We're sending a very clear and unmistakable political signal," Rifkind told reporters.

"The purpose of the measures announced yesterday was not to provoke a crisis for its own sake... When they [European nations] get used to the fact we will not be pushed around then that concentrates the mind wonderfully."

But Rifkind tried to take some of the heat out of yesterday's frenzy among tabloid newspapers, which praised Major for going to "war" against Europe, saying: "I don't use that language, the prime minister doesn't use that language."

"We have a serious disagreement with a number of countries. The proper way to resolve that is by negotiation and dialogue."

Europe imposed the ban on March 27 amid widespread fear of mad cow disease passing to humans.

Major's patience finally ran out Monday when European veterinary experts failed on to endorse an easing of the ban and allow exports of beef by-products such as semen, gelatine and tallow as recommended by the EU's executive commission.

The EU has decided to hold an emergency meeting of farm ministers in Luxembourg on June 3-4 to discuss the ban again.

But Rifkind and officials made it clear that a simple easing of the ban would no longer be enough to get Britain to reverse its non-cooperation campaign in Europe.

Ciller slams Turk premier, delights Islamists

ANKARA (Reuter) - Turkish coalition partner Tansu Ciller, cornered by a barrage of corruption charges, lashed out at Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz yesterday with a call for him to step down after two months as head of their shaky government.

"Yilmaz should hand over his mandate immediately," Ciller told a meeting of her True Path Party (DYP). She urged the creation of a broad-based government to replace the minority conservative alliance and accused Yilmaz of gross incompetence.

Two DYP cabinet members with minor portfolios said they had given their resignations to Ciller, which the ex-premier said they had done to pressure Yilmaz.

"I know about the resignations. They resigned to force... Yilmaz to resign," she was quoted by the state-run Anatolian news agency as saying. They will stay as ministers for now.

Ciller's outburst was her strongest in frequent recent rows between the pair and confirmed the success so far of Islamist opposition attempts to split the pro-market conservatives.

Istanbul shares dived on Ciller's comments to end the day down 4.44 percent. The Turkish lira dropped to 78,000 from 77,550 against the dollar.

The Islamist Welfare Party has also urged Yilmaz to resign after a constitutional court ruling last week cast doubts on the government's legal status.

Bomb on bus kills at least 14 in India

JAIPUR, India (Reuter) - The second powerful bomb blast in India in as many days killed at least 14 people and wounded 33 yesterday on a bus in the northwestern state of Rajasthan, an official in the chief minister's office said.

The official denied domestic news agency reports which said at least 20 people were killed by the explosion near the town of Mahua, about 150 km from the state capital Jaipur.

United News of India (UNI) said the explosion tore the roof off the bus.

The blast occurred on the eve of

a general election in the rebellious Jammu and Kashmir state, the first in seven years.

Police said no one had yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Two Kashmiri groups have said they planted a car bomb on Tuesday night in a crowded New Delhi market, killing 13 people and wounding 38.

UNI said the bus was traveling from Agra, where the Taj Mahal is located, to the desert tourist town of Bikaner near the Pakistani border. It was not known if foreigners were on board.

With great sorrow, we announce the death in London, on May 22, of our dearly loved

KARL BAUM ז"ל

formerly of Brno, Czechoslovakia

Deeply mourned by his

Wife: Margot

Sisters: Mizzi Hochhauser (Florida) and

Marta Weinberger (Jerusalem)

Nephew, niece and family:

Tom, Kay, Benjy, Elisheva and Miri Weinberger

Funeral in London

The unveiling of the monument to our beloved mother

FLORENCE CHAVEL ז"ל

will take place at Eretz Hachaim Cemetery in Beit Shemesh on Sunday, May 28, 1996 at 6 p.m.

The Family

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

MAX (Meir) DECKTOR ז"ל

in Ashkelon.

The funeral will take place at Shikun Givat Zion (Shikun Dromi) Cemetery today, Thursday, May 23, Erev Shavuot, at 11 a.m.

Shulamit Decktor

Avron Decktor

Yonit Zilberman

Myra Dromi

and their families.

The family will be gathering in the home of the departed at 50 Hahavatzlet Street, Afridar, Ashkelon, from Motza'ei Shabbat, May 25, until Tuesday evening, May 28.

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY



deeply mourns the passing of

CELIA BURGER

a devoted friend

and extends sincere condolences to the family



Shenkar College of Textile Technology & Fashion

With deep sorrow we mourn the loss of

NORA FRENKEL

our friend and senior faculty member.

Yesiahu Gabal

Vivian Gan-Mor

David Kadosh

Hana Krakhower

Abbey Rotbard

Shir Shvedron

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Invitation to the dedication ceremony of The Cherna and Irving Moskowitz Amphitheater

Monday, June 3, 1996 (Sivan 16, 5756) at 8:00 p.m., at the Ancient Qazrin Park

For information about transportation, please call the Qazrin local council, Tel. 06-969610.

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Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein

School of Social Work, Bar Ilan University

will speak in English on:

"Jewish Family Life: Continuity, Separation and Change"

Rabbi Shael Bellows

will speak on behalf of the family.

Sunday evening, June 2, 1996 (15 Sivan 5756), at 8 p.m.

at the Tiferet Moche Synagogue

(on the grounds of Yeshivat Hadarom), Rehovot

The public is invited. Refreshments follow.

An estere and unveiling will take place on Friday, May 31, 1996 (13 Sivan 5756) at 10 a.m.

at Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Beit Shemesh, Shimon Junction.

A bus (Hesot Giga) will leave from Binyanei HaUmah at 9 a.m.

Aryeh, Dov and Shael Frimer and families (Tel. 08-9478819)

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NEWS IN FOCUS

May 23, 1996

7

Campaign grapples with the Russian soul

Many new immigrants from the former Soviet Union remain uncertain about their choice for prime minister, reports Abraham Rabinovich

NATAN Sharansky was not giving any secrets away. On a soft spring night in Herzliya this week, he stood on a park podium asking a small crowd of Russian-speaking immigrants to vote for his Yisrael Ba'aliya Party. However, in response to a question, he refused to say for whom he would vote for prime minister.

Russian immigrants, he explained, were evenly divided between Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu, and if he publicly pronounced for one or the other, perhaps 40 percent of his own supporters would immediately decamp.

The Russian soul, bless it, is torn with conflict, even when it comes to an Israeli election. Polls show that as many as 30% of Russian immigrants are "floaters," uncertain whether to choose the Likud or Labor leader. The direction of the peace process - perhaps the future of the Middle East - may be decided by how they resolve their dilemma by next Wednesday.

In all, Russian immigrants constitute 14% of the electorate in a race where the contenders are separated by 6% or less.

"Many Russian immigrants believe the country is too small to be divided and therefore don't accept the formula of land for peace," says Vladimir Babak, an academic researcher who arrived three years ago and ranks among the floaters. "I'm ready to give up land for peace, but I think the government is going too fast with the peace process. A process is something that should take a long time."

On the other hand, Netanyahu is not yet ready to be prime minister. He doesn't have Peres's experience.

"So, who is he going to vote for?" "Well, I still have a week to decide."

Some 700,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union arrived in the past six and a half years, joining 200,000 who came in earlier years. Sharansky has succeeded in tapping into their collective identity by sticking to issues the immigrants can readily come to grips with, like housing, jobs and the education system.

Some polls show his party winning 6-7 seats, double the forecasts when he started his race three months ago. Another party of Russian speakers, led by Ephraim Gur, is also in the race.

Inevitably, the view of the Israeli political scene is colored for many of the Russian immigrants by their background in the Soviet Union.

"I think Peres is too old," said Yefim Kazlovsky, a member of the Herzliya audience who arrived five years ago from Belarus. "We

saw this in the Soviet Union, a country run by a gerontocracy, people who have no perspective."

"Peres has this mania for peace and doesn't take into consideration the Arab mentality. He can't think in any other way. We need peace but with security. He's giving away land for a piece of paper. Netanyahu is better, because he's younger and has an academic background as an economist. I don't know if Peres has an education. He's a politician and that's not the same as having an academic education."

A retired radio engineer in the crowd, Yosef Meiselberg, recognized in Netanyahu something he was familiar with from Moldavia. "He's a careerist."

Peres, on the other hand, was a man of experience. "He's a socialist, and there has to be help for the weak and the elderly. He's also for privatization, which the economy needs. I think Peres will bring peace. Without peace there's no future."

All the pro-Netanyahu Russian immigrants spoken to at the Herzliya rally favored peace and accepted the need for territorial concessions. But they expressed uneasiness about the swift pace of the peace process.

"Politics is like chess," said an ex-Kiev engineer who identified himself only as Alexander. "You have to think a few steps ahead. Everyone wants peace, but we have to think about what we are giving away and what can happen. Peres is a very serious person, but Netanyahu has the will and the strength. And he's young."

Rene Hecht, who arrived from Moldavia a year ago, said that Peres advocated "peace at any price," which was an unacceptable formula.

Furthermore, said Hecht, when Peres addressed immigrants in Jerusalem he said that Israel had the best educational system in the world and that the country had a shortage of engineers. "A prime minister who believes these things, well, it's a pity."

Leonid Opendik, who immigrated five years ago, said he saw no real difference between Labor and Likud. However, the dependence of Labor on Meretz - "Meretz always thinks about the Arabs' needs, not about immigrants' problems" - will make him vote for Netanyahu.

Peres supporters among Russian immigrants interviewed in Jerusalem contrasted his experience with Netanyahu's. "If I were sick," said Galina Groisman, "I would choose an experienced doctor to treat me and not an intern, even if he photographed well. Peres should be permitted to complete the process he has started."



Natan Sharansky campaigns among Ethiopian immigrants. While he is busy collecting potential votes for his own party, he won't say who will get his own vote for prime minister.

Ludmila Uritsky was reminded by the Israeli right of the dominant world view in the Soviet Union. "It's difficult to live in a closed society which is xenophobic and aggressive, which has the need for seeing an external enemy. I see Peres as leader of a democratic movement that believes in rights for everybody, not just the Jews."

A lack of credibility was cited by Julia Prezoument as a reason for not choosing Netanyahu. "In the past two years, his position on peace has changed," she said, citing his acceptance of the Oslo agreements and his reversal of position regarding a possible meeting with Yasser Arafat.

Alec Epstein, a sociology student at the Hebrew University, noted that the Likud campaign directed at Russian immigrants was the reverse of the campaign it directed at veteran Israelis. Where Netanyahu was presented as a peace candidate in Hebrew, it was his hardline advocacy of a strong

Israel that was heard in the Russian-language campaign headed by Rafael Eitan.

Although she has been in the country 17 years and is married to an Israeli of Persian extraction, Galina Nabati of Ness Ziona still identifies enough with the Russian-speaking community to have joined Sharansky's campaign. "We are the victims of stereotyping," said Nabati, a music teacher. "Whenever there's a murder or something else unpleasant involving a Russian immigrant, his origin is always pointed out in the newspapers. We

are portrayed as criminals and prostitutes. They don't do this with other groups; they don't point out that Rabin's murderer was a Yemenite. After all my years in the country I feel now that I can shout."

As for prime minister, she chooses Peres. "I believe we have to have a dialogue, not flex our muscles."

On the stump in Herzliya, Sharansky was an engaging campaigner. He did not declaim his speech but chatted amiably with his audience, looking probably as he had in Moscow parlor meet-

ings during his days as a dissident. He had put on considerable weight since crossing a snow-covered bridge in Berlin 10 years ago in an East-West prisoner exchange, but his face was little changed.

In his talk, he noted that this wave of immigrants is the first in the country's history to attempt to assume an immediate role in the decision-making process and not to leave their fate to the Establishment.

His seemingly quixotic avoidance of high politics in a critical, politically charged election cam-

paign spares his supporters the dilemma confronting them in the prime minister's race and keeps Sharansky himself, at least for now, above the battle, where he has chosen to be since his arrival from the Soviet gulag.

With his appointment as a minister likely, regardless of whether Peres or Netanyahu wins, this is a posture that will not long remain tenable.

He has crossed an icy bridge once more, this time into politics. In the end, floaters too understand that politics means choosing sides.

STATE OF ISRAEL
The Central Elections Committee for the Fourteenth Knesset and for Prime Minister

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- From May 26, 1996 to May 27, 1996, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- On May 28, 1996, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.
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Bringing the horses to the stable

All the campaigning efforts will be for nothing unless each party gets its supporters to actually come and vote, Sarah Honig reports

THE parties think they have, by this point, taken the horse to water. Their task now is to make it drink.

This week they have - for better or worse - finished making their pitches and can do little more to entice the voter to their side. Now they have to make sure the voter will actually cast the ballot.

The job of the propagandists and shapers of public opinion is done, and they did not appear to surpass themselves, having this time deliberately decided to hold their horses and rein in the enthusiasts.

Even if they thereby failed to evince proper horse sense, there is nothing much which can be remedied at this juncture, when the only promise of excitement remains the much-touted Sunday night debate between the prime ministerial candidates.

In all likelihood, it too will fail to add last-minute zest to the most lackluster campaign to date.

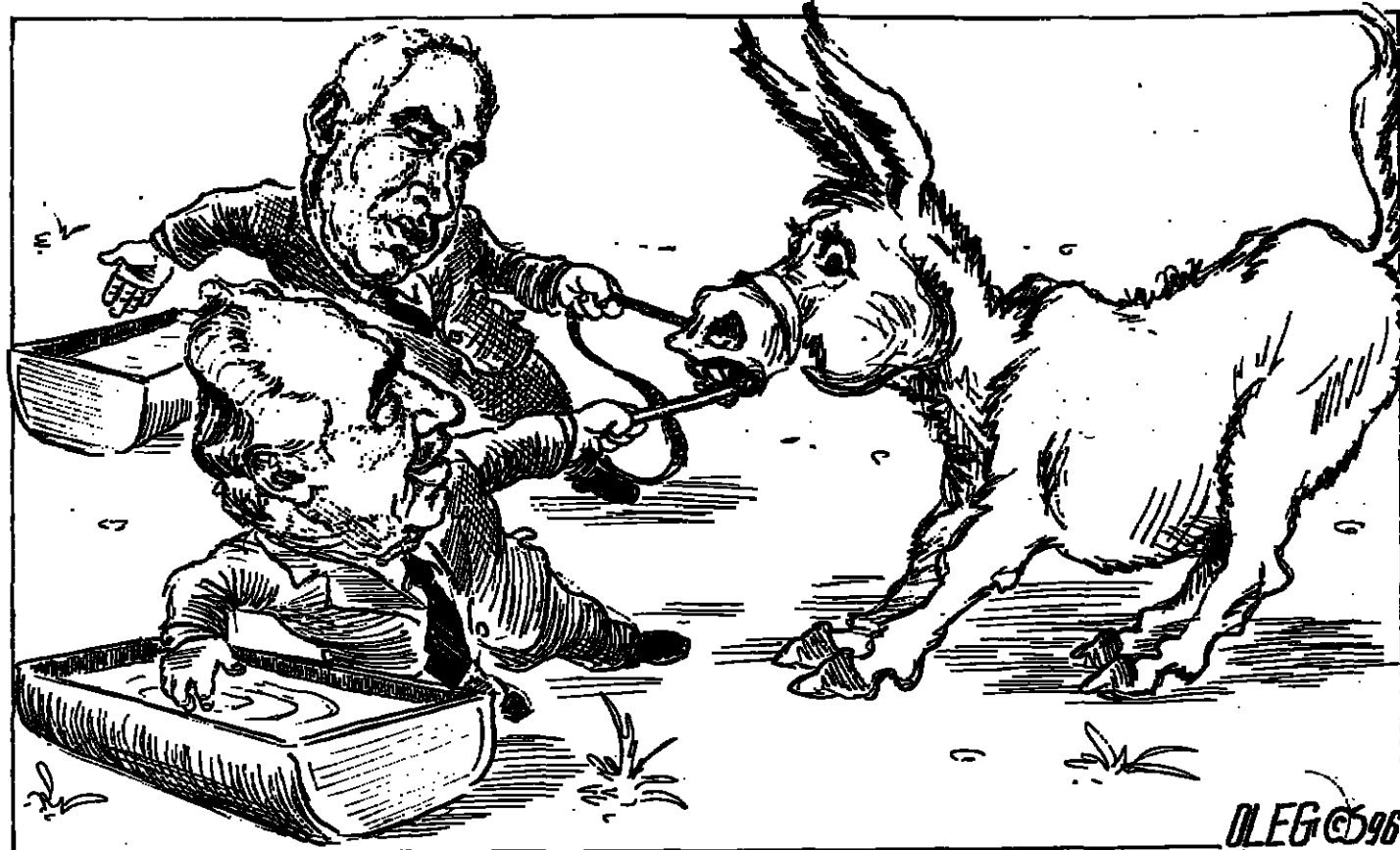
For both Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu, the goal will be not to lose their balance and stumble. It will take a particularly astute surprise to make one of them the winner, or, conversely, a stupendously stupid slip for one of the two to lose.

Barring any such unforeseen developments, they will spend the half hour allotted them spouting their usual clichés and impressing those who have already bet on them.

But while the debaters are being intensively coached and put through their paces in yet more practice simulations, far from the limelight trainers of a different sort are busy preparing for the Election Day effort to get their horses to imbibe the water.

Their is the unglamorous logistical and technical chore of looking out for their party's interest where and when it immediately counts. If we believe what is said in the campaign headquarters, this organizational apparatus may actually provide the razor-thin edge that could make all the difference and determine the outcome of the entire horse race - in the event that it is indeed as close as some experts call.

Faulty organization could, according to the two large parties, cost either prime ministerial candidate as much as 10 to 20 percent of his potential support. Thus the major objective will be to get the voters to the polls. Each party will concentrate on those sectors in which it is assumed to be particularly powerful. Peres's massive



advantage among the Arabs and Netanyahu's overwhelming lead among the haredim will do either no good if inclinations to back them are not translated into actual votes.

Thus it is crucial for Labor that a larger than ever turnout be produced in the Arab sector and that those who get to the polls actually vote for prime minister and not just for the Knesset list of their choice. If thus far the Arab sector's average turnout was no more than 70%, Labor is this time aiming for 85% to offset the antagonizing effect of the Grapes of Wrath operation.

The Arab vote could make or break Peres. It is admitted in Labor, where it is feared that Netanyahu leads in the Jewish population.

Similarly, the Likud must make sure that the haredi voter turnout is increased from its traditional 80% average to as high as 90%, and that here too there be no abstentions in the prime-ministerial contest. Up to

the very last minute Labor is engaging in hectic horse-trading to secure rabbinical injunctions directing the faithful not to vote for prime minister at all, thereby denying Netanyahu crucial support. Labor is now intimating that such deals have been struck but not publicized.

In certain haredic courts, according to the Labor claims, there will be word-of-mouth instructions against taking part in the prime-ministerial vote. Likud Election Day organizers must battle such rumor-mongering, clear the confusion and get the supporters to actually vote.

Four years ago Labor made ample use of the vast infrastructure and means available from the Histadrut and the kibbutzim to bring new Russian-speaking immigrants to the polling stations.

Labor organizers shrewdly read the newcomers' mood and realized that they could turn the frustrations of adjustment into a massive anti-government vote. It worked and the immigrants are seen as one of the major sectors which turned against the Likud and caused its downfall in 1992.

This year Labor will not be busying the immigrants en masse, mainly because no one can quite gauge whom the immigrants support for prime minister. No one can tell if they will be taking the right horse to water or would be sending a foe instead of a friend to the polls.

All that is clear is that there are some 430,000 eligible voters who arrived here from the former Soviet

cracy. The dedicated voter will have to go to the central bus station in his place of current residence with his ID card and prove that his voting address is elsewhere. This will earn him free bus vouchers. Just how many voters will decide to make the effort and argue their case in rudimentary halting Hebrew is far from clear.

Although Sharamsky's party is certainly interested in bringing as many claims to the polling stations as possible, the big parties don't know if it's worth their while to encourage these voters to travel, because they don't know whose cause they will serve.

Even seemingly minor hitch within any given sector of the electorate - and the failure to provide a rapid correction on Election Day by party organizers - may affect the fortunes of either prime-ministerial candidate. The failure to recruit enough volunteers to represent a given party in polling-station committees and then in committees supervising the actual counting of the ballots could turn out to be much more of a deciding factor than lofty ideals and vital issues.

In past elections, for example, the Likud was not represented everywhere. This year the plan is to be in attendance even in kibbutzim and Arab villages. MK Uzi Landau, in charge of the Likud Election Day effort, vows that "this year we will not neglect any polling station. In the past we did so, despite knowing that some places are particularly prone to funny business and even outright fraud. People voted more than once, and even the dead were often resurrected. Beduin women came veiled with photoless ID cards."

He points out that "there are 6,700 polling stations. We reckon that if we lose even one vote in each station because of non-kosher practices, then we are cheated out of thousands of votes which could prove pivotal. Every vote counts, which is why we have to get our people to the polls or we have done nothing in all the weeks of campaigning."

"Everything now hinges on this. We could lose simply by being remiss and not going after every single individual vote. We can't ease up, because we can't know for sure that we indeed got every last potential supporter."

One thing is sure, it will not be till after this horse opera's finale - when the votes have been tallied and the statisticians have spun their magic - that the political wranglers will be able to judge their skills in prodding their horses to the polling stations to actually cast those ballots - all this assuming that they appraised their horse-dress well and didn't end up unwittingly with a horse of a different color.

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"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it... in that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem... and it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the Nations that come against Jerusalem..."

"We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and behold trouble... saying, peace, peace, when there is NO peace." "thus saith the Lord: deceive not yourselves..."

Yea, they are greedy, dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand; they all look to their own way, everyone for his gain, from his quarter."

"My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray... who is that shepherd that will stand before me?"

"Behold, I am against thee, O thou most proud saith the Lord G-d of Hosts... and the most proud shall stumble and fall..." "and I will bring Israel again to his habitation and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan (Golan) and his soul shall be satisfied upon Mount Ephraim and Gilead..." "They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat..." "and they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof (on the Golan) they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them, and I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land, which I have given them, saith the Lord thy G-d..."

"for G-d will save Zion, and will build the cities of Judah, that they may dwell there, and have it in possession" "and I will cause them to return to the Land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it."

Shavuot: The time to look to the Torah!

"... Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their G-d... and shall fear... in the latter days..."

THAT TIME IS NOW FOR: "... it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompense for the controversy of Zion"

References (King James version)

1) Jer. 7: 8; 2) Prov. 30:15; 3) Jer. 6:10; 4) Ps. 83:7; 5) Zec. 12: 2,3,8,9; 6) Jer. 8:15; 11:7; Jer. 37:3; 8) Isa. 58:11; 9) Jer. 50:6; 10) Jer. 50:44; 11) Jer. 50:31-32; 12) Jer. 50:19; 13) Isa. 65:22; 14) amos 8:14-15; 15) Ps. 68:35-36; 16) Jer. 30:3; 17) Hos. 3:5; 18) Isa. 34:8

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The country's first post-ideological election

A de facto consensus is emerging that Israel has other options besides either retaining all of the territories or returning to the '67 borders, David Makovsky writes

It seems light years ago. With Israel's only mini-debate between Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu taking place on Sunday, one cannot help but recall the defining moment of the last mini-debate in 1992. When Yitzhak Shamir was asked whether he favored Israel getting out of Gaza, he replied no, because it is "Eretz Yisrael" (the land of Israel).

With the Palestinian Authority now in control of almost all the cities in Judea and Samaria, the notion of the Complete Land of Israel Movement, or Greater Israel, is not a campaign issue for the first election since 1967. While Judea and Samaria and dealing with the Arabs remain the defining issues of Israeli politics, there has been a profound change in the last few years.

Opponents to Palestinian control in the territories speak in terms of how they view safety, not in terms of an over-arching historic vision. Israel seems to be facing its first post-ideological election.

So long as ideology was a factor for some, there was no common language for debate. One side was talking apples, the other oranges. There is no doubt that there are key issues in this election, ranging from the possibility of Palestinian statehood or the Golan Heights. But, when it comes to dealing with the Palestinian issue, the neck-and-neck race between the parties masks the fact that the two sides are no longer speaking as if they are universes apart.

Reality has imposed itself and differences between left and right have narrowed. Israel has never been a consensus-driven society, but the reality of Oslo has created a virtual de-facto consensus.

This absence of ideology on the right is also true on the left. The idea of a "New Middle East," which has become so identified with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, is one which he has quietly become more ambiguous about, even before the upcoming elections. Faced with Arab opposition abroad and skepticism at home, Peres now has trimmed his sails. He subtly speaks of an unspecified "transition period" to a new era, which at some point down the road will yield a regional economic community.

In the meantime, he makes it clear that Israel will continue to develop a modicum of economic ties with some states in the region on the basis of mutual self-interest, but amid the recognition that Israel's major peace dividend over the last four years has come from greater investment from the US and Europe and greater exports to the Far East, not from the region.

Yet inroads Israel has made in the region over the last few years due to the peace process have led to the dissipation of another axiom which used to be heard often in ideological circles on the right in the past, namely, "the whole world is against us."

That this is no longer true was evident when Israelis can visit Jordan, the Gulf, and north Africa while Arabs and other world leaders attended Yitzhak Rabin's funeral. Further evidence is the establishment of diplomat-

ic links with up to 160 countries since the end of the Cold War.

The absence of ideology on both sides might explain why this election campaign has become by many accounts one of the sleepiest political campaigns in many years, as well as the absence of the usual major rallies and heated debates at many street corners. Oslo charted a course and, whatever people's own political views, according to polls, most people believe the PA is here to stay and Oslo will not be overturned.

The Arab-Israeli stalemate on the territories, which has bedeviled Israel since 1967, has been broken. So long as there was no Arab interlocutor, talk of maintaining biblical patrimony over Judea and Samaria played a key role as Israel was essentially arguing with itself. It was a frozen debate.

It was also a more polarized debate than today. Its terms were framed in either the following choices: either you keep it all or you go back to the 1967 lines. Yet after the passing of more than two-and-a-half years since the famous handshake on the White House lawn, it seems that the pre-1993 ossified debate was one of false choices.

Visiting settlements and talking to settlers, one senses an overwhelming sentiment that no matter who wins the current election, neither party will expel the PA and neither will uproot all the settlers but rather that settlement "blobs" comprising most settlers will prevail as a result of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement. This is a view expressed no less by Likud officials than by Labor politicians, including Minister Yossi Beilin, who believes he has a plan to annex 100,000 settlers into Israel.

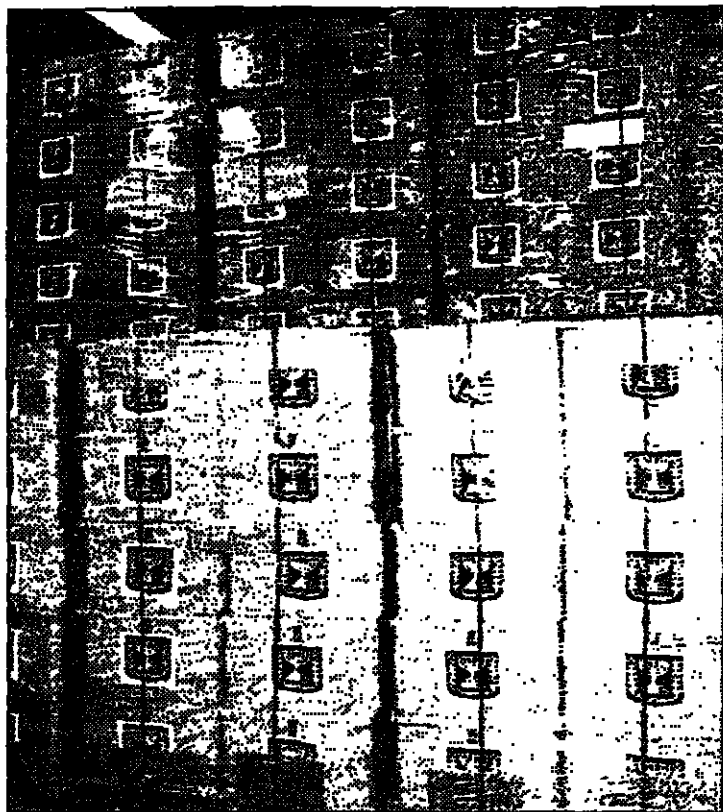
In short, regardless of Israeli rights to biblical patrimony over the entire land, the debate has moved from one of ideology to the more mundane concerns such as demographic studies of concentrations of Palestinian population centers and settlement blocs. Settlers usually put their own case to the public in terms of safety and not as being the vanguard of the Zionist dream.

The territories have become transformed from an ideological issue to a security question.

With ideology no longer the salient factor it was in the past, the remaining questions seem to be more technical, such as what percentage of Judea and Samaria will remain in Israeli hands and what can be given to the Palestinians. While this is an undeniably important question, it is hard to get Israelis to become passionate about percentage points.

Hebrew University political theorist Yaron Ezrahi said, "1992 turned out to be an election about direction in dealing with the Palestinians, with this election being more about pace and degrees of change."

NETANYAHU has positioned himself in this campaign as someone who recognizes the new facts on the ground and has gone beyond ideology. He repeatedly insists that he would not roll back those areas held by the PA, would consider meeting PA Chairman



This is the first election since 1967 in which the Greater Israel notion is not a campaign issue.

Yasser Arafat, and hints that he too will be open to territorial compromise in the future — although he says he does not want to talk in terms of ultimate sovereignty. The Likud's campaign commercials have gone a long way since Shamir's statement about Gaza four years ago.

The one ideological component left in the conflict with the Palestinians is the unity of Jerusalem, but this is something which retains Israeli consensus.

When asked recently about whether the epic ideological struggle for all of Judea and Samaria is over, Netanyahu replied, "we cannot always fulfill our dreams."

Yet, Labor believes Netanyahu's pragmatism is doomed to fail due to dominant figures in the Likud coalition. In an interview this week, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak predicted, "Bibi [Netanyahu] will want to continue a pragmatic policy, but he won't be able to do. Rafal [Rafael Eitan] and Arik [Ariel Sharon], two people who proved themselves in manipulating Menachem Begin — someone who is deeper and smarter than Bibi — and proved themselves as being able to constrain Shamir — someone stronger than Bibi. His coalition will dictate his policies, not his own wishes."

Peres also has shifted his position, moving away from the integrationist talk of European-style open borders in Judea and Samaria. After the suicide bombings, Peres adopted the approach favored by Rabin, the majority of the Labor party and, according to the polls, the country: separation, or, reduced to a somewhat crude but successful bumper-sticker notion, "we are here and they are there."

Nobody believes separation can be hermetic, but there have been fewer suicide bombings during closures than when there are no limits on the numbers of entrants. (Some, like Netanyahu, believe that Peres can also reposition himself away from his campaign pledge after he is elected. This will not be simple since failure to do so will hurt him politically should there be more terror bombings in the future.)

The popularity of separation is a notion not lost on the Likud. A former Likud minister confided, "the public cares less where the border is than the fact

become de-ideologized, in its own way, is the haredim. Instead of favoring separatism as in the past or being subject completely to the calls of its rabbis, this election has marked the haredi public's move from observer to participant in Israeli society.

According to Moshe Halberthal, a Hebrew University professor of Jewish thought, "everybody is becoming less ideological, and more connected to reality. The haredi ideology of staying aloof from Israeli society has frayed."

"It is not coincidental that rabbis are not telling their people how to vote, since they know the haredim are now making up their own minds anyway. This notion of haredim voting for secular figures tells us democracy has a power of integration."

One religious party which seeks to reposition its message is the National Religious Party. Instead of casting itself as it did in 1992 as the defenders of Judea and Samaria and being "at your right side," it now focuses its message on the success of its youth-movement graduates as officers in the IDF and wrapping itself in the mantle of being the "soldiers of the state."

Like Natan Sharansky's immigrants' party urging an intensification of the Zionist imperative for immigration, both are portraying themselves as idealists in a post-ideological age. (Having spent nine years in Soviet prison for his Zionist beliefs, it is virtually impossible to beat Sharansky in the idealist category.)

If the NRP and settler supporters have defined Zionist strength as taking another hilltop, both Labor and Likud are focusing more on economic growth as an engine for Israeli strength.

One almost cannot have a meeting with a cabinet minister today without having to listen to him speak glowingly of the country's \$80 billion GNP, talking with the same sense of pride Israelis used to reserve for newly acquired F-15 aircraft. Netanyahu seems closer to this mold than he does to Shamir, who used to relish telling reporters that economics was not his job and refer them to the finance minister.

Barak called for the definition of Zionist strength to be changed from "another sheep, another dunam" to the advance of the peace process as a vehicle for improving Israel's regional position and isolating dangerous rogue states like Iran and Iraq while integrating Israel into the world economy and increasing

the country's exports. "All these factors increase the security of Israel. There is no doubt about it," he said.

Economics might not only be a sign of change, it could represent the realignment of Israeli politics four to eight years down the road. After the peace process is sorted out, it could be that the Labor-Likud differences will be replaced by socioeconomic politics — the existing situation in the US and Europe — that confront issues such as big or small government and low or high taxes.

Populists like David Levy (Geshet) and old-time socialists like Yair Tzaban (Mapam) potentially could find themselves on the same side pitted against pro-business types like Netanyahu and Barak.

The one element which could complicate the totally economics-driven politics — considered by people in many countries to be normal — is the extent to which the old ideological divisions over the territories will be supplanted by fresh divisions along unpredictable lines on what does it mean for Israel to be a "Jewish state."

Many believe this could be the next big public debate as the territorial issue becomes less dominant.

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The bubble that failed to burst

Michal Yudelman and Thomas O'Dwyer reflect on the election campaign

WHAT campaign? We could end the article there. It might best reflect the attitude on the streets.

It is an election campaign enclosed in a transparent bubble. Within, little figures seem to dance and jump and rotate and grin. Outside, the bemused masses idly watch, and wait.

They wait for the bubble to burst, for the little figures to grow to human size and stream into the streets with drums banging and banners flying.

"When is the circus coming to town?" the children might well ask.

The most crucial elections in the nation's history? God help the nation!

So, who said they are the most crucial in the nation's history, anyway? Why, those little gyrating politicians, of course, locked in their virtual-reality bubble.

In real reality, people have a life. They are indeed swept up with enthusiasms, with passions, with questions about their futures. But they are not looking inside the bubble for the answers.

Yes, it is a few days to general elections, and everyone supposes they will get out and do their civic duty and vote for someone. Definitely. They will vote for Tweedledum. Or maybe Tweedle-dee.

A quick glance at the election posters for guidance. They are everywhere - same blue and white, same typeface, same slogans, same doves. Fine, but doesn't the other party have any posters? Oh, that is the other party.

The most exciting elections either one of us covered as a journalist in this region was the presidential election in Cyprus at the

end of the '80s. Oceans of red flags led their troops against oceans of blue. Leftists thundered the rhetoric of the people across huge squares teeming with the masses. Rightists countered the next night with the rhetoric of the free-market people fighting communist conspiracy thundering across the same squares teeming with different masses.

In a blaze of noise, tear-jerking patriotic Greek music, and blaring car horns, the joint masses streamed to the polls and journalists bit their nails through the night as the count rolled on neck to neck. In a television-rattling drama, the incumbent leftist president lost, barely. Now that's an election campaign.

But Israel '96? No wonder a judge ruled that a shooting incident in the poster-pasting war between rival activists was "not political."

No one in his right mind would believe that one person would shoot another in an ideological war between peace with security or security with peace. Jerusalem with peace or Jerusalem in peaceful pieces.

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Israel must be in fine form then. Never mind a national unity government, we have a national unity election campaign.

Everyone wants peace. Everyone wants Jerusalem. Everyone wants Oslo. No one likes Yasser Arafat, but the Palestinians do, so everyone will deal with him. Spot the difference.

What we are left with is a hesitant debate over whether they really mean what they are saying. Can we believe Bibi Netanyahu or is he only crooning to the



floating vote while giving a nod and a wink to the true believers?

If Labor is the bastion of equality, human rights, and separation of "church and state," why is Shimon Peres rushing around kippa in hand to religious and haredi parties, nodding and winking about the status quo with a hint of the rattle of shekels in the community chest?

And what exactly is the price of all that peace? A Palestinian state? Evacuation of the West Bank settlements? Speak up Peres.

It's a couch potato's election campaign. The streets and squares are deserted. Meet your candidate in the comfort of your own living room. Zap, time for

the *Hartzufim* - or the *X-Files*.

Feet up, with coffee and cake in hand, in front of the television is not the most conducive atmosphere for political debate. The most menacing opponent in the room may be a yawning cat.

The prevailing theories on why it has all been so dull appears to settle on two issues - the lingering numbness of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, and a watchful "will they, won't they?" response to warnings of terrorists plotting in the shadows.

The assassination has undoubtedly led to the silencing of demagogues and a joint effort to lower the once shrill tone of national debate. Gone are the huge election events seeking to whip the streets into election frenzy.

Besides, right and left concur that the safety of the elected leader and the public have become paramount and no one objects to the blanket of security that has stifled free-wheeling public gatherings or surprise visits by the prime minister.

But beyond all that, something has died in middle-aged Israel. Maybe the passion is spent, the total involvement with causes we once took for granted is no more.

Ideological passion from the left died with Menachem Begin, hatred from the right with Rabin. Many feel the central issue of former elections has been swept away - or under the carpet.

"It's like there's a conspiracy of silence about Rabin's assassination. But our prime minister was shot. And the trauma is greater than we realize," said Shosh, a Tel Aviv businesswoman in her early forties.

"I sense a huge difference, both in style and in atmosphere. The politicians are afraid of the public, and the public has drifted away from the politicians."

Dalia, owner of a car-dealer-ship franchise, said: "The election campaign has been sterilized of all meaning. Terrified that they would be accused of making use of Rabin's murder in the elections, Labor is hiding the most important and traumatic event in decades.

"Rabin's murder is why we are having these early elections. Rabin's murder is what these elections are all about: the peace process which the Likud opposed vehemently, and the democracy which the right wing tried to undermine. Once you ignore all that, the entire campaign becomes detached, floating in air. Irrelevant."

For the first time too, Israelis will be electing their prime minister personally. The emphasis has shifted from parties, or ideologies, to the personalities of the two candidates.

As in America, how each candidate "comes across" on television may be more important than

Blessed be the T-shirt

ZIPPORAH PORATH

HOW can you compare giving a voter a T-shirt to offering a memorial candle specially blessed by a revered rabbi?

This from a young woman with a towel wrapped around her wet hair, at the neighborhood hairdresser.

"What's the difference," answered Ziva the hairdresser. "Both gifts serve the same purpose - to lure voters and give the party power. And if the party gets the power, we'll have a better school deal, for one thing."

There was no avoiding eavesdropping on this heated discussion. I was a captive audience. Ziva, with scissors in hand, was clipping my hair energetically; the more aggressive the argument, the faster she chopped. I was literally in her hands and must have looked uneasy.

"Don't worry," she assured me. "I know you don't like it too short." Relieved, I could now give my attention to the discussion, which intrigued me because both these young women are religious, belong to the same synagogue and send their kids to the same school.

The customer with the wet towel was upset by the bestowal of blessings on potential voters only. "How can a man of the rabbi's stature lower himself to be part of this politicking," she said. "I think it's shameful."

Ziva understood his motives completely. "You give one person a T-shirt, another a personalized blessing. Everyone gets what makes them happy. What's wrong with that?"

The customer turned on her. "Are you saying any means justifies the end?" Ziva stood her ground but slowed the pace of snipping my hair.

The woman with the wet towel persisted. "On the way here I was almost knocked over by a pack of nine-year-olds distributing party fliers and fighting about who would hand me election material. I suppose you think it's all right to use children for that purpose?"

Ziva said she didn't really like the idea, but she knows the kids are paid for their services, about eight shekels an hour, and that's why they are so competitive and eager to do a good job.

"And the parents know what they are doing and approve?" "Well of course they do. If the

kids didn't have permission, they wouldn't be used, would they? Somebody has to do it."

"Would you let your children do this?" "Well, thank goodness, mine weren't approached," Ziva said. "Mostly it was kids from families who really need the money."

"And that makes it OK?" Under her breath the lady with the wet towel said "Something is very wrong if you and the rabbi can't see where to draw the line."

Clearly, she and Ziva had different perceptions of what their religious leaders should and should not do. Ziva stopped cutting my hair for a moment to attend to another customer. I watched fascinated as she grasped snippets of hair from the dark-haired lady, flattened a few strands on a square of tin foil, smeared the locks with a light shade of hair color and then rolled them up like blintzes. I was so absorbed in watching this bizarre procedure I didn't listen to what the lady with the tin-foil halo was saying.

She was lambasting the TV election broadcasts. "The issues are very clear," she said, "but the candidates aren't clear about what they are going to do."

Ziva, returning to work on me, summed up her view. "Everyone got the message in the first three days. It doesn't change - the same old stuff over and over again. No wonder hardly anyone is paying attention."

She gave an emphatic snip to the scissors, mumbling: "Imagine what could be done with all the money those broadcasts cost."

From the corner of the room another customer added her comment: "It's like a person being persuaded to buy something on credit and only when he has to pay the bill realizing it wasn't what he really wanted."

My haircut was finished, turning out better than I had expected under the circumstances. Now it was haircut time for the lady with the wet towel. I no longer had any excuse to linger.

Where the discussion led after I left, I have no idea. In any case, the promotion gimmicks continue, along with distribution of T-shirts and TV fanfare - all part of the election bandwagon scene. Perhaps, as Ziva says: "Everyone gets what makes him happy."

anything he has to say. Were we not always taught that beauty is only skin deep and we had better develop our personality and skills if we want to amount to anything? Now we are asked to believe it's OK for a politician aspiring to lead the country to require nothing more than a good profile and an American or French advertising expert.

Israelis were always experts at political jargon, ideological fractals, points of order, and committee arcana.

All gone - make way for multimedia magic, marketing mumbo jumbo, pink cheeks and packaging, and Friday night salon discussions.

The entire campaign now focuses on the parties' propaganda broadcasts, the respected analysts of the diminishing print media are sent off to dissect not real issues, but fabricated video clips which no one in the ordinary office or cafe admits to watching anyway.

In a way, this makes things much simpler - the obtuse

Marshall McLuhan was a prophet after all. The medium is the message.

Thus the real Likud concept of a final peace is not spelled out, but is merely symbolized by an advertising agency trick. The soaring dove that opens its propaganda clips turns out to be merely flapping desperately, its feet tethered to a pole.

In animal-crazy Britain, that would surely cost any party the entire election. Here? The opposition's attempt to propagandize it in a rival clip may have been as effective as selling orange juice with sexy women, or not.

What is Labor's idea of security? Behold, Peres the grandfatherly nanny whom all the children, and especially the teenagers with votes, love.

The campaign broadcasts are it - the election campaign. And who cares?

After all, as Jerry Seinfeld once said: "If I wanted a boring story that goes on and on with no point to it, I don't need television. I have my life."

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In view of the many questions received, and the "information" being publicly circulated, we wish to advise the public, as follows:

- a. In every voting booth, in addition to printed voting slips, there will be blank voting slips (for the Knesset, white slips; for the prime minister, yellow slips). These slips are for use, should there be a lack of regular voting slips for any of the lists contesting the Knesset elections, or for any candidate for prime minister. A voter who wishes to use one of these slips must write the letters of the Knesset list he wishes to vote for (on a blank white slip) or the name of the candidate for prime minister he wishes to vote for (on a blank yellow slip).
- b. A blank voting slip on which nothing has been written, found in a voting envelope, will be regarded as disqualified, and will not be counted with the valid votes.

Journalists' mistakes can cost lives

EYE ON THE MEDIA
DAVID BAR-ILLAN

It is not every day that *The Jerusalem Post* is privileged to be attacked by one of Israel's most notorious bashers, *New York Times* columnist Anthony Lewis.

In his May 10 column, titled "Journalists' mistakes can cost lives," Lewis enlightens his readers on the differences between Israel and other democracies by quoting Minister Yossi Beilin's bitter complaint: "The PLO can change its charter and half the people will tell you it didn't." And, in parentheses, Lewis adds "The example was not theoretical. *The Jerusalem Post*, a once-respected English language daily now reduced to right-wing caricature, has made the argument day after day."

That Lewis is unhappy with the *Post* is hardly surprising. This column has excoriated his compulsive Israeli bashing and obsessive preoccupation with Israel's "soul."

It has also referred to his chronic inability to recognize reality by quoting Henry Kissinger, who with uncharacteristic understatement once said about him, "He is always wrong." Concurring, *New Republic* publisher Martin Peretz has said, "Anthony Lewis... to put it delicately [has] not been prescient about Arab affairs."

The fact is that not only the *Post* but the leading expert on Palestinian nationalism, Professor Yehoshua Porat, has asserted that the Palestinian Covenant has not been changed. Had a Likud minister rather than Beilin disputed the assertions of a left-leaning scholar of Porat's caliber and reputation, Lewis would have mercilessly mocked the politician as a pre-

tentious ignoramus.

The reason Lewis is regularly off the mark is that he lets his political agenda dictate his judgment. His misappraisals of the murderous Khmer Rouge and the Ayatollah Khomeini almost two decades ago were products of his rigid New Left views.

In this he was no different from other terminal leftists. Then-US ambassador to the UN Andrew Young called Khomeini "a saint," and Lewis's colleague on the *New York Times*, Sidney Schanberg, predicted that American departure from Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge takeover would bring, as the *New York Times* headline had it, "For most, a better life." Another leftist, Noam Chomsky, responded to the Khmer Rouge slaughter of two million Cambodians by denying that it ever happened.

FOR THE same reasons, Lewis has been a PLO booster for decades, a writer who yields to no one as an Arafat groupie. But something funny happened to him on his way to celebrate the salvation of Gaza, handed over to the PLO by an Israeli government which has finally found its soul.

In a May 6 column (reprinted in the *Post* on May 12), Lewis quotes at length director of the Gaza Mental Health Program Dr. Eyad Sarraj, an old friend.

This is what Dr. Sarraj had to say: "I say this with sadness, but during the Israeli occupation I was 100 times freer. I wrote in the Israeli press and the Arab press. Today I am boycotted by our press and television.

"There are so many arbitrary arrests now, without charge, without reason. The Authority has nine security organizations, each with its own detention center. And people are systematically tortured."

"Under the occupation we felt brute force. But we never felt the humiliation we do today, because we are oppressed by our own Authority." As if to prove the truth of Sarraj's charges, the Palestinian Authority arrested him this week "for many offenses against the PA."

Lewis's honesty in publishing Sarraj's lament is commendable. But it is impossible not to wonder if Lewis and the numberless columnists, writers and reporters who, like him, have tirelessly promoted the PLO, have any sense of guilt about what they have wrought. It is, after all, thanks to their indispensable services that almost two million Palestinians are now under the dictatorial rule of a ruthless, corrupt tyrant.

They cannot use the excuse that they did not know better. Arafat's rule in Lebanon until 1982 was a tyranny they all witnessed. Even then they practiced denial. In the tradition of intellectual supporters of the Soviets, they believed that the end - achieving a Palestinian state - justified the means - lying about the PLO savagery in Lebanon.

One of Lewis's spiritual ancestors was George Bernard Shaw, one of the century's most brilliant men, who visited the USSR after mil-

lions had already been slaughtered and starved to death by the regime. Before departing Moscow for London, Shaw told the press, "I am leaving the country of hope and returning to the country of despair."

Such voluntary service in the dictators' foreign legions is not an abstract intellectual exercise. The influence Western writers have had in making Stalin, Mao, Castro, Ho Chi Minh, Khomeini, several African tyrants and Arafat acceptable to the West has been immeasurable.

Yet few have assumed responsibility for helping relegate millions to death and hundreds of millions to slavery. And if Lewis suffers pangs of conscience about the oppression Palestinians now suffer under Arafat, it is one of journalism's best-kept secrets.

Shahak's complaint

On April 26 "Eye on the Media" column quoted writer Aharon Megged as stating that in an appearance in Boston, Hebrew University Professor Yisrael Shahak compared Zionism to Nazism.

The following was received from Shahak in response: "I am enclosing the full text of the *Jewish Week* report on the opinions of Rabbi Ginsburgh, whose summary in *Ha'aretz* was mentioned in my letter to you of April 29, protesting against the slanders of Aharon Megged against me mentioned in your column 'Eye on the Media' (The *Jerusalem Post*, April 26).

"If Ginsburgh's views are not Jewish Nazism, as bad as the views of Hamas and Jihad leaders which you rightly attack, and if Ginsburgh's explicit praise for Baruch Goldstein is as not worthy of condemnation as any praise of Hamas terror, then the only conclusion must be that your 'Eye on the Media' column is consistently based on an application of a double standard; the very offense of which you often accuse others."

The *Jewish Week* report Shahak enclosed had the following passage underlined:

"If you have two people drowning, a Jew and a non-Jew, the Torah says you save the Jewish life first." Rabbi Ginsburgh told the *Jewish Week*. "If every single cell in a Jewish body emits divinity, is a part of God, then every strand of DNA is a part of God. Therefore, something is special about Jewish DNA."

Later, Rabbi Ginsburgh asked rhetorically, "If a Jew needs a liver, can you take the liver of an innocent non-Jew passing by to save him? The Torah would probably permit that."

"Jewish life has infinite value," he explained. "There is something infinitely more holy and unique about Jewish life than non-Jewish life."

Notwithstanding this, Rabbi Ginsburgh hastened to add that nothing in this view undermines the holiness of non-Jewish lives.

HOW exactly these views, odious as they may be, justify comparing Zionism to Nazism is beyond the comprehension of plain mortals. Nor does Ginsburgh's praise of Baruch Goldstein, unacceptable as it may be, justify Shahak's obscene slander of Zionism.

But perhaps the flavor of Shahak's activities in the US can best be captured by perusing Hillel Stavits' description of an event at MIT, published in *The Jewish Advocate* of December 1, 1994:

"Prof. Shahak opened his address by enumerating the Nazi-like acts of the Israeli government and people ranging from prohibiting Arabs from digging wells to untold instances of torture and assassination. It seemed that the billed theme of the evening, 'Jewish Fundamentalism,' was going to receive short shrift."

"But soon the elderly professor came to his main thesis: namely, that the sum total of Jewish religion and history amounted to an explicit legacy of hatred and violence toward Gentiles. And, naturally, Israel and its Nazi policies are the result of the hatred embedded in 3,000 years of Jewish thought and teaching..."

"By the end of Shahak's address, a significant line had just been crossed... Anti-Zionism had revealed its authentic face. Here was a page that could have been lifted from *Der Stürmer* or the *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*."

"[A member of the audience] asked Shahak about a passage from his new book: namely, that he,

[Shahak] witnessed an incident in which an 'ultra-religious Jew refused to allow his phone to be used on the Sabbath in order to call an ambulance for a non-Jew who happened to have collapsed in his Jerusalem neighborhood.' Shahak was then asked to prove his credibility by simply naming the 'ultra-religious Jew.' He refused to do so, screaming, 'I will not answer questions from Jewish Nazis!'"

"By this time, the few Jews in the audience began to shout, 'Tell us his name, tell us his name.' No reply was forthcoming. Subsequent research published in *Tradition*, by Immanuel Jakobovits, later chief rabbi of Great Britain, affirmed that the alleged incident with the 'ultra-religious Jew' had been completely hoaxed by Prof. Shahak and that he was 'forced to admit that the Orthodox Jew he had 'witnessed' refusing the use of his telephone simply did not exist.' *Tradition* continues: 'Equally overlooked was the circumstance that the rabbinic, far from having confirmed Dr. Shahak's allegation supporting the imaginary Jew's behavior, had in fact ruled that the Sabbath must be violated to save non-Jewish no less than Jewish lives.'"

THE intolerable ease with which professors like Shahak can equate idle, famous Talmudic speculation with the unspeakable monstrosities of Nazism betrays not only a woeful lack of intellectual discipline but an abysmal meanness of spirit. That they so passionately serve Israel's enemies seems to confirm the old adage: there is no antisemitism like a Jewish antisemitism.

The ultimate sin

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

THIS time, unlike many previous times in recent years, Shimon Peres got his biblical quotation right.

I refer to his comment on a report that Binyamin Netanyahu had said he intends to form a national-unity government if he is elected prime minister. Peres commented in effect: Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.

Actually, he cited I Kings 20:11: "Let not the man girding on his sword [preparing to go out into battle] boast as one ungirding it [after returning from battle, victorious and whole]."

Peres got the quotation right. But if he had carefully checked its source and context, he might have chosen a different bit of wisdom from the Tanach or Talmud, or perhaps have forgone a classical allusion altogether. For the man who originally gave that wise advice unwisely ungirded his sword too soon and came to an unhappy end.

The speaker was Ahab, monarch of the northern Kingdom of Israel. The man to whom he addressed the advice was Ben-Hadad II, king of Aram, present-day Syria, who was waging war against the Jews in his Greater Syria campaign.

Ben-Hadad was besieging Shomron (Samaria), Ahab's capital, at the head of a large force, and he made a certain demand of Ahab that the latter refused to meet. The Syrian monarch sent back a message warning Ahab that he did not stand a chance against him and the horde he led. It is here that Ahab retorted that Ben-Hadad was boasting too soon.

And indeed, in the battle that followed, the Jews routed the Syrians.

The following spring, Ben-Hadad again led a large force against the Jews, and again Ahab's force routed the Syrians. The Syrian survivors of this battle, including the king, fled into the town of Aphek (Fig) in the Golan. Ben-Hadad sent a message to Ahab asking for mercy, which he granted. The two monarchs then agreed to establish a New Middle East, Ahab accepting the surrender terms offered by Ben-Hadad, including: "...you may establish bazaars for yourself in Damascus as my father did in Shomron."

A prophet confronts Ahab and

tells him in God's name, "Because you have set free the man I have doomed, your life shall be forfeit for his life and your people for his people."

After three years of no war between Israel and Syria, Ahab, in alliance with Jehoshaphat king of Judah, decides to try to recapture the Gilead Heights east of the Jordan, from the Syrians. At Jehoshaphat's request, Ahab consults an assembly of 400 prophets, who promise him success. One of them, however, Micaiah, tells him, "God has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours; for God has decreed disaster upon you."

Sure enough, Ahab follows the advice of the false prophets and is slain in that battle. And "the dogs lapped up his blood and the whores bathed in it, as God had said." (See I Kings 16:29 - 22:40 and II Chronicles 18.)

JEWISH TRADITION depicts Ahab as an arch-sinner in the sin of idolatry and, therefore, as one of seven men, including three Jewish kings, who will never enjoy the blessings of the World-to-Come (Gittin 88a, Sanhedrin 90a).

Ahab is said to have erased every reference to God in the Torah and replaced it by the name of the Phoenician god Baal - e.g., "In the beginning Baal created..." "Baal spoke to Moses." On every doorway in Samaria he inscribed the legend, "Ahab denies the existence of the God of Israel." And there wasn't a square meter of ground in Eretz Yisrael on which he didn't install an idol and worship it.

Nevertheless, he earned a reign of 22 years. Because, Rabbi Yohanan taught, he honored the Torah, written in the 22 letters (of the Hebrew alphabet), when he rejected the Syrian king Ben-Hadad's demand that he surrender the palace Torah Scroll to him in addition to all his (Ahab's) gold and silver, wives and children (Sanhedrin 102b).

AHAB'S FATHER and predecessor, Omri, was also a notorious idolater. During his reign, the cult of Baal took root in the palace circles and among the city dwellers.

Nevertheless, the talmudic Sages tell us, he earned the privilege of reigning for 12 years because he added a city to Eretz Yisrael. That city was Shomron, which he built on a hill he bought from one Shemer, naming the city after him.

So we see that Jewish tradition regards territory, too, as something of value, as all normal, healthy national traditions do. This is contrary to our New Middle East lotus-eaters (see Homer's *The Odyssey*, Book 9), who dismiss precious parcels of Eretz Yisrael as mere "real estate," and are ready - eager - to give them away to people who are pledged to Israel's ultimate destruction. In this our lotus-eaters hark back to the very beginning of Jewish national history, when our ancestors "rejected the precious Land" (Psalms 106:24 and Numbers 14:31).

Our "real-estate" disparagers cite King Solomon's gift of 20 towns in Galilee to his friend and ally, Hiram king of Tyre. The commentators question Solomon's act as violating an express command of the Torah, and they contort themselves somewhat to find reasons to justify it, including several reciprocal acts by Hiram (see Kings 7, II Chronicles 8, and comments of Abrahanel, Ralbag and Malbim).

As for the general attitude to Torah in our society, especially among our secularist leadership, there are the warning in Leviticus 26:15 of the consequences of the Jews' rejecting Torah and Rashi's apt comment on this passage, based on the comment in Sifra.

Leviticus states: "And if you despise/reject My statutes and treat My laws with disgust, not observing My commandments and breaking My covenant..."

Rashi comments: This refers to the ultimate, cardinal transgression of denying the existence of God, which is arrived at in a seven-stage process: not learning; not observing; despising those who do observe; abhorring scholars; preventing others from studying and observing; denying the existence of commandments and values; and, finally, denying the existence of God the Creator, Liberator and Redeemer.

(Thanks to Rabbi Yacov Homnick of the Ariel Rashi Project, Jerusalem.)



Ruth: The book of religio-nationality

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"Now it came to pass that in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife, and his two sons." (Ruth 1:1)

WHY do we read the Book of Ruth on Shavuot? In typical Jewish fashion, it is necessary to answer the question by posing another question. Are we a religion or are we a nation? What really stands at the essence of our self-definition: the revelation at Sinai, or the land-army-government that is national Israeli sovereignty?

The festival of Shavuot addresses these issues. Fifty days after the Jews left Egypt, the Torah was given on Mount Sinai. Wherever the consciousness of one God exists, the ripples of Sinai are still being felt. Sinai is Torah, Sinai is Shavuot, Sinai is Judaism. A Jewishness without Torah is an impossibility, a term devoid of meaning.

But Shavuot does not only celebrate the giving of the Torah. Indeed, the Torah itself refers to Shavuot, not as the day of the Receiving of the Torah but rather as the Harvest Festival (*Haq Hakatzir*) (Ex. 23:16) or the "day of the first fruits" (*yom habikkurim*).

Clearly then, on Shavuot the elements of Torah and land, Sinai and harvest, God and nature are intertwined. The choice of reading the Scroll of Ruth on Shavuot is usually understood in terms of its theme - Ruth's conversion to Judaism. Her acceptance of the God of Israel is seen as annulling the Israelites' acceptance of the Torah on Mt. Sinai.

But even a cursory examination of the narrative reveals that Ruth's conversion is intimately connected with a drama whose central ideal is not only the God of Israel, but also the land of Israel. The very declaration that Ruth makes to her mother-in-law: "Where you walk, I will walk; where you sleep, I will sleep; your peo-

ple are my people, and your God is my God..." demonstrates that Ruth's fundamental movement towards Judaism is predicated on her journey to Israel with Naomi.

Elimelech, a leading Bethlehemite, had left the Land of Israel because of a famine. He dreams of acquiring riches - or at least hoarding his wealth - in the land of Moab.

The very words used to describe his move reflect the futility of thinking that a Jew can better himself outside his national homeland. Elimelech leaves the "house of [his] bread [*Beit lechem*]" for an empty field of Moab.

His two sons (*banim* - from the verb form "to build," since one's children enable one to grow into an "eternal building") become mere children (Ruth 1:1-5) upon their marriages to Moabite women, since they are now unable to provide their father with any real continuity.

Indeed, the very names of these "children" are Mahlon (disease) and Chilion (destruction).

If Ruth chooses the God of her mother-in-law, she understands that she cannot remain in Moab, weighing the possibility of joining a branch-of-Temple Beit Avraham in Moab Heights. No, her commitment must be to a land as well as to a lifestyle, to a nation as well as to a religion.

And the land will play the major role in changing Ruth from a simple woman supporting an aging mother-in-law to the wife of Boaz, a judge in Israel, and the progenitor of the future king; land must be linked to Torah if personal and national redemption are to be achieved.

As kinsman of Elimelech, certain obligations fall upon Boaz. Naomi, having been impoverished, had to sell off her husband's ancestral land. If she is to be redeemed from poverty

and alienation, she must be returned to Elimelech's estate. Hence the Torah states: "If your brother becomes impoverished and sells off his possessions, the redeemer who is close to him will come and redeem that [land] which his brother has sold." (Lev. 25:25)

When Ruth comes to Boaz's bed, and lies at his feet, Boaz wakens and asks who she is. "I am Ruth your handmaiden; spread your wing over your handmaiden, for you are a redeemer." (Ruth 3:10)

Calling Boaz a redeemer places the entire event in perspective. He is literally the potential redeemer of the land that Naomi was forced to sell, and will also be the redeemer of Mahlon's name if he takes Ruth for his wife. Indeed, their great-grandson will be King David, unifier of Israel, progenitor of the Messiah. Hence personal redemption merges with national redemption as commitment to Torah is intertwined with return to the ancestral land.

Ruth is truly a reincarnated Abraham, discoverer of ethical monotheism. Boaz explains his special admiration of Ruth as emanating from the fact that "...you left your father and mother, and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before." These words resonate with God's opening words to the man from Ur: "Get you out from your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you." Abraham as well as Ruth can only realize Jewish destiny on the soil of Israel.

Reading the book of Ruth on Shavuot expresses a two-dimensional, religio-nationality which is the necessary prerequisite for Redemption. And Shavuot serves as the yearly culmination of all our festivals, linking our celebration of the Torah of God with the first fruits of the land. Only when these two merge as one will Abraham, Ruth and David's ultimate destiny be fulfilled in the Messiah, redeemer of the world.

Shabbat Shalom and Hag Sameah

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The hedgehog (above) has a short coat, unlike the long pointy quills of the porcupine (right). The biological distance between the two is great.

Look alike

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

It seems that nature has patterns that are repeated in the appearance of different animals. Two totally different, unrelated species living in different areas will bear a strong physical resemblance and, indeed, fill similar ecological niches in their respective habitats. When this happens we call it evolutionary convergence.

A very well-known example is the common mole of Europe and North America (*talpidae* in Hebrew), which is blind, lives in a burrow, has a thick coat, tough snout and shovel-shaped front paws for digging. It is an insectivore and what it is digging for is worms and grubs.

Here and in Africa, we have no moles but we have the mole rat (*holod*). These animals also have most of the same physical characteristics, but they are herbivores and when they dig up the garden they want to find tender roots, tubers and bulbs.

The tendency to focus on appearance is one of the major pitfalls the amateur naturalist

falls into. For instance, hedgehogs and porcupines both have quills; so do birds and even mammals of the monotreme class, such as duck-billed platypuses and echidna. But the distance between a hedgehog and a porcupine is immense, far greater than the distance between, say, a rabbit and an elephant.

The hedgehog is an insectivore. It eats insects and some meats. The porcupine is a herbivore. The only thing they have in common is that they are both mammals and that they both have a combination of hair and quills. Other than that, in all respects, they are totally different.

This confusion also extends to other animals. Sometimes, it must be admitted, the closeness is greater, as in the case of cows, sheep, goats, deer and antelopes, not to mention swine.

All of these animals have a cloven or split hoof and, except for the swine, all have horns. Also, except for swine, they are all ruminants, that is animals that



chew the cud. What they have in common - cloven hooves, and, for most, horns and multiple stomachs - does not make them alike.

First of all, there are two distinct types of horn: the horn and the antler, which deer grow each year and shed at the end of the breeding season. Cows, sheep, goats - including ibex and mou-

flon - and all antelopes have horns which are never shed and grow throughout their lives. This is so general that even giraffes, which are antelopes, have avian-like horns covered by fur.

Alike as mammals, alike as ungulates, alike as ruminants, they are still far apart.

As for swine, they fall in that separate class of animals with

cloven hooves that are not ruminants and have no horns. They are similar only in that they are mammals and have hooves.

If all of this makes one wonder, then just consider that nature has made the absolute best of the possible permutations and that we, as students of nature, may look and wonder and forever be amazed.

Counting is the key to success

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North
♠ A J 5
♥ K 4 2
♦ A Q 2
♣ K 6 5 2

West
♠ 10 9 8 7 4
♥ 10 8 7 6 5
♦ 9 4
♣ 8

East
♠ 3 2
♥ 9 3
♦ 10 8 7 6 5
♣ J 10 7 3

South
♠ K Q 6
♥ A Q J
♦ K J 3
♣ A Q 9 4

South West North East
2 NT pass 7 NT (all pass)
Opening lead: S10

There is no equivalent in the bridge world to the holiday of Shavuot, unless you compare the counting of 52 cards to the counting of the 49 days of the Omer. Indeed, the counting of a bridge hand often leads to a successful conclusion.

Many people who do not play the game have expressed awe at the thought of remembering so many cards, but the truth is that counting at the table is relatively easy. Each

suit contains 13 cards and the way to count a hand is to mentally divide the 52 cards into four suits, with 13 cards in each.

Actually, many players don't really count at all. They memorize common distributions of 13 and mentally picture them. The most even distribution of a suit is 4-3-3-3. Another common one is 4-4-3-2. Let's see how this concept might be applied.

You are on defense with a four-card heart suit; you see a three-card heart suit in the dummy, so you are halfway home. You know that the distribution of the heart suit includes the numbers 4 and 3.

As the hand progresses, you watch partner and declarer play their cards and fill in the complete picture of the heart suit. When one of these players fails to follow suit in hearts, you have the count. For example, if your partner shows out on the second round of hearts, you know that partner held one heart and, therefore, the distribution of the suit must be 4-3-1-5.

This information may help you count the entire distribution of declarer's hand.

Counting is necessary if you want to be a strong bridge player. The players who sit at the table and don't count are often guessing what cards to play late in the hand, while the counter is ready with his dis-

BRIDGE
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

cards and more likely to take a winning position. A good example is today's deal. The contract is seven notrump and the opening lead is the 10 of spades. How would you play the grand slam without the knowledge of seeing all four hands?

First of all, count your tricks. You have three sure tricks in each suit, for a total of 12. Thus you need one more club trick for your contract.

Normally the way to score four tricks with this club combination would be to cash the three top honors and hope that the suit is divided around the table 4-4-3-2. Another possibility, though far more remote, is to play East for the jack and 10. In this scenario, you cash dummy's king of clubs and lead a low one. If East plays low, you put in the nine; if East puts up an honor, you win and return to dummy to finesse against his other honor.

If someone made this play at the table, you might think he had seen one of the East-West hands. But if South is a counter and cashes the suits in just the right order, he can do it legitimately.

First he cashes three spades, noting the diamond discard from East. Then he cashes three hearts, noting another diamond discard from East.

Finally, he cashes two rounds of diamonds, leaving the ace - or queen - in dummy as an entry.

He now knows that West started with five spades, five hearts and two diamonds. Therefore, West cannot hold more than one club. So he leads a club to the king and executes the double finesse against East.

By the way, readers sometimes ask about percentages, so here are a few that you should keep in your repertoire:

• Suppose you are declarer and have seven cards in a suit between your hand and dummy. Assuming no information in the bidding, what's the chance of a 3-3 division in the opponents' hands? The answer is 35.53%. The chance of a 4-2 split is 48.45% and a 5-1 split is 14.53%.

• Say you have a suit missing five cards, like today's club suit. The chance of a 3-2 split is 67.83%, and a 4-1 split is 28.26%. The chance of one opponent having four cards is half this.

• Missing four cards to the queen, do you finesse or play for the drop? This frequently asked question can be answered by knowing the percentages: A 2-2 split is 40.70% and a 3-1 split is 49.74%. However, a particular 3-1 split is half that figure, so playing for the drop of the queen is a better play.

FIDE chief backs down

CHESS
NICK KOPALOFF

Capitulating to a concerted wave of international pressure, FIDE's newly elected president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov has backed down from his decision to stage the Karpov-Kamsky FIDE World Championship match in Baghdad - Saddam Hussein was himself to have made the opening move.

Ilyumzhinov announced last week that the Kalmyk Republic, of which he is the president, will be hosting the finals, and he himself will put up the \$2 million prize money.

While Israel Chess Federation Chairman Yosef (Tommy) Lapid proudly declared "We have rescued the good name of chess in the world," questions must be asked as to why FIDE delegates from national chess federations including Israel's gave their unwavering support for Ilyumzhinov's appointment. His reelection in the forthcoming FIDE elections in September will now certainly be strongly contested.

Since he stepped into office last year, barely a day passes by when Ilyumzhinov does not succeed in inciting even his most placid FIDE colleagues.

The British Chess Magazine has lashed out and described his hasty appointment "an unqualified disaster." Quoting *Der Spiegel*, the (London) Daily Telegraph reports that Ilyumzhinov spoke out in favour of Saddam Hussein's right to have his sons-in-law assassinated.

He went on to describe Saddam's actions as "a completely normal family drama." In an amazing tolerance-impugning forgive-and-forget defence of his Iraqi venue decision, Ilyumzhinov has argued that he cannot hold the Georgians responsible for Stalin's expulsion of the Kalmyk nation to Central Asia.

But Ilyumzhinov has not been alone in his support for Iraq's hosting of the finals. FIDE European Zone President, Kurt Jungwirth of Austria pointed

out that the United Nations' sanctions against Iraq do not include sporting or cultural contacts.

The most vociferous opposition to Ilyumzhinov seems to have come from the Russian Federation who pointed out that Iraq had rained down Scud missiles on a noncombatant Israel during the Gulf War.

While Karpov and Kamsky must continue to wait impatiently for their long-overdue FIDE World Championship Finals, PCA champion Garry Kasparov has dispelled doubts that his shaky World number one ELO ranking was on the line by taking joint first place in the strong VSB tournament in Holland.

Here he ingeniously scrapes through with a fine draw against his old rival, Binbin's Nigel Short. Short, Nigel - Kasparov, Garry
Amsterdam 1996
Sicilian Defense

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be4 e6 7.0-0 Be7, Kasparov usually prefers to play here 7...Nbd7. But as a result of his loss against Topolov who himself lost to Short with the same variation, Kasparov adopts a more orthodox line.
8.Bb3 0-0 9.f4 Nc6 10.Be3 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5 12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne8? 14.Ne4Bb7 15.Qd3 Qc7 16.e3 Rd8? 17.Be2 Bxe4 18.Qxe4 g6 19.b4! Ng7 20.g4! Blacks counterplay chances are non-existent. In the game's post-mortem, Kasparov jokingly admitted he was considering resigning at this stage.

20...h5 21.h5 a5 22.a3 Rd7 23.Rf3 Qd8 24.Rb1 Bg5 25.Rhf1 axb4 26.axb4 Be7? 27.Rb1?, Short misses the critical line 27.gxh5! Nxb5 28.Rxf7! Rxf7 29.Rxf7Kxf7 30.Qxg6+! Kf8 31.Qh6+ Ng7 32.Bg6! and mating.
27...h4 28.Qc3 Ne8 29.Be4 Ne7 30.Be6?, Qd3! 30...Nd5 31.Qe4?

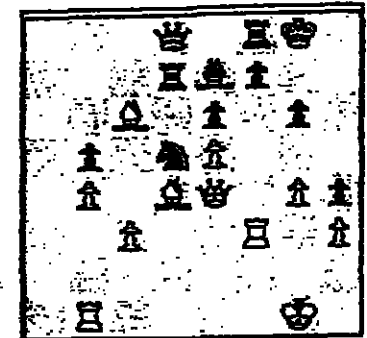


DIAGRAM 1
after White's 31st move

31...Nxc3!! Out of nothing Kasparov conjures up some masterful counterplay
32.Bxc3 Qb6+ 33.Kg2 Rc7 34.Ba8 Rc4 35.Qb7 Qxb7, Short admitted he was terrified Kasparov might continue 35...Qd8! with winning chances for Black.
36.Bxb7 Rb8 37.Ba6 Rb6 38.Ra1 Rcc6 39.Bxb5 Rxb5 40.Ra8+ Kg7 41.Ra7 Kf8 42.Ra8+ Kg7 43.Ra7 Kf8 0.5-0.5

How did Michael Basman expose Barendregt King to force mate in the following position?



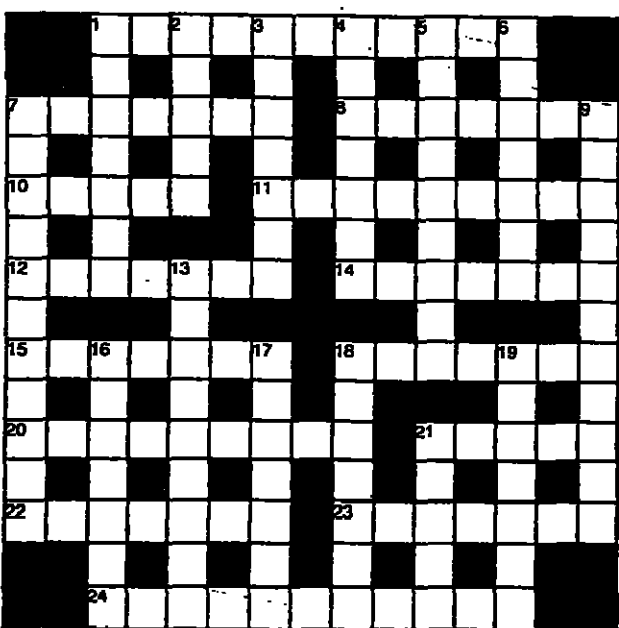
DIAGRAM 2

Solution: 1.a6, threatening mate on b7 1...Qc8 2.Bxb6, with the simple threat of Be3 followed by Rb3. 2...axb6 3.a7+ Kxa7 4.Ra3+ Qa6 5.Rxa6 Kxa6 6.Qa8+ Kb5, the game continued 7.Q4+ Kxc4 8.Q4+ Kd3 9.Qe4+ Kd7 1-0

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1 Joy of living in France (4,2,5)
7 Stick with something funny perhaps during hand in a card-game (7)
8 Keep secret once in California (7)
10 Temperamental hymn-writer? (5)
11 A tart used to have been cooked was soaked (9)
12 Deal forcibly with many stuck in a lift disaster (7)
14 Deceitful scheming (7)
15 Georgia has alloy of reproductive cells! (7)
18 Chikara founded in Pakistan (7)
20 Owner died rearranging cover (9)

- 21 Music from southern side of stage (5)
22 It is hurtful when Greek character, trapping officer commander, needs to ring us (7)
23 More holy rod-user (7)
24 Being successful at the Mint? (6,5)
- DOWN
1 Start the deciding round perhaps (4-3)
2 Climber accepts gold as being the key (5)
3 Of the eyes, well placed in the face? (4-3)
4 Left pet that had been taken in by Virginia and Edward (7)

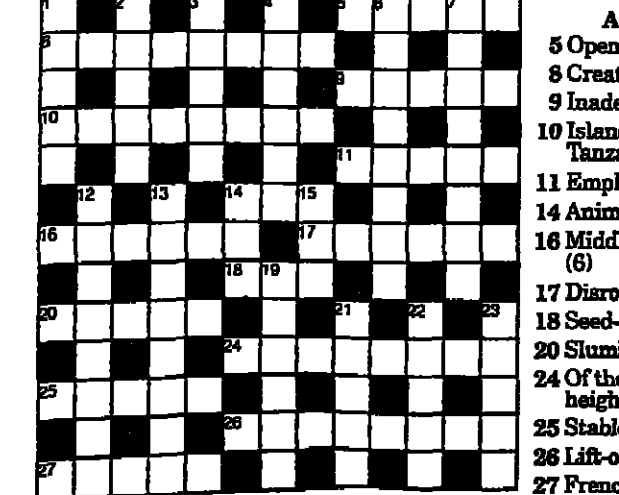


SOLUTIONS

DISCOURSES GASS
U T U I L C F T
CLEAN CHARACTER
K R C H S A E A
UNIVERSITY BARRON
A D S I I P G
ADAMANT CHAGALL
R U C N E
HODDLED SPENCER
H S P H S
CASHI SWASHBOT
U R P R P R A
L I O N H A I R R E A G S
A D I A I C P
B A I S T R A N S G R E S S

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Penny, 4 Tenise, 10 Tractor, 11 Trade, 12 Actor, 13 Carried, 15 Avar, 17 Style, 19 Usual, 22 Name, 23 Beneath, 27 Crowd, 29 Serve, 30 Awesome, 31 Amity, 32 Jetty.
DOWN: 2 Sweet, 3 Natural, 5 Ester, 6 Stamina, 7 Sial, 8 Brace, 9 Ready, 14 Arum, 16 Vent, 18 Tantrum, 20 Secrete, 21 Obese, 23 Ahead, 24 Ahar, 26 Agent, 28 About.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
5 Open pie (5)
8 Creation (anag) (8)
9 Inadequate (5)
10 Island in Tanzania (8)
11 Employing (5)
14 Animal park (3)
16 Middle Easterner (6)
17 Diarobe (6)
18 Seed-case (3)
20 Slumbered (5)
24 Of the greatest height (8)
25 Stable (5)
26 Lift-off (4,4)
27 French city (5)
- DOWN
1 Mad (5)
2 German river port (5)
3 Sober (5)
4 Love-apple (6)
6 Trenchant (8)
7 Clownishness (8)
12 Fanaticism (8)
13 Large airship (8)
14 Clothes fastener (3)
15 Unusual (3)
19 Batsman (6)
21 Mew (5)
22 Garden flower (5)
23 Office worker (5)

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Home-grown tea - a step above the rest

NEW things can equal the pleasure of a cup of fragrant tea, especially herb teas - which are all the rage and much healthier than caffeine. Your local supermarket has about 25 varieties, but many more blends are available right in your own garden.

Homegrown mint, lemon balm and chamomile are much more flavorful than any herbal ingredients you can buy. They are fresher, stronger and, best of all, can be blended to suit your individual taste. It's so easy to do and you will find exactly what you like by experimenting. First in a list of common garden plants used for tea is mint. Remember to plant it in a pot or in some area which will contain the roots. It's very invasive and difficult to get rid of once it gets started. Beg a few roots from your friend or neighbor and watch it grow.

Melissa (lemon balm) is a member of the mint family but not quite as hardy. It has floppy, scalloped leaves and makes a soothing sleepy-time tea. Chamomile bears small daisy-like flowers. Harvest these for a light apple-flavored tea. Don't harvest all the flowers, as the plant will reseed itself for many years. It's a stomach-ache tea, and very soothing.

GARDENING
INEZ KLJIMIST

Coriander (cilantro, *kushbara*) leaves lead a warm citrusy flavor. Louisa is a small, delicate bush with lemony leaves. Use them in a cup of hot water for a pale green tea.

Fennel is a meter-high perennial which grows wild in fields. Both the feathery leaves and the seeds are used for licorice-flavored tea. Roses should be picked just past their blooming peak. Use only plants which have not been sprayed with poisons! Use dried petals of very fragrant roses and rose hips for a tart lemony flavor and a good source of vitamin C. Cut slits in the rose hips to speed drying and crush them before brewing.

Bee-balm (monarda) and catnip are also flavorful additions. Aromatic oils are most concentrated when herb plants are in bud, so that's a good time to harvest, although you can take cuttings any time during the growing season. Cut back the plants by two thirds. Plants can be used fresh, brewed right away, or can easily be dried first for storage. Spread the cuttings on cookie

baking trays in a warm airy place and turn them once or twice a day for four to eight days. When they are dry, gently strip the leaves, buds or flowers which you want to save and store them in tightly closed containers in a dark place like a closed cupboard.

In England, a tea with one ingredient is called a simple. Start with sampling some simples to acquaint yourself with the flavors you have available. Once you discover the art of blending, you will likely prefer the made-to-order tastes and subtle accents you can create.

The trick is to choose one dominant flavor for your brew and then to add small amounts of other herbs or bits of dried fruit, citrus peel, whole spices, or toasted and chopped almonds, walnuts, or other seeds. Mixing too many dominant flavors will result in a murky undefined taste, so use about three parts of your dominant flavor to one part of accent items. Crumble the leaves for easier mixing, but not so small that they go through your strainer. Herb teas are naturally pale. Sweetening with honey will darken them and add body. Lemon juice bleaches the color, so for tartness, try rose hips instead.

Specialized

Saying it with trees

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

SOME people say it with flowers, Richard Oestermann's friends say it with trees. When people close to him asked what he wanted for his 70th birthday, the Jerusalem-based Middle East correspondent for Scandinavian publications said he didn't want anything material. When they suggested trees, he was enthusiastic.

Oestermann expected relatives and friends in Israel and abroad to contribute a total of 70 trees, and was moved almost to the point of tears when the final count, in this, his birthday week, came to 800. He himself is contributing an additional 200 saplings for a 1,000-tree forest which has been inaugurated at Tarum. Relatives and friends, including Danish ambassador Jakob Rytter, came from Denmark, the US and around Israel to join Oestermann in a Scandinavian-style celebration at the Radisson Moriah Hotel.

TRAFFIC congestion on Jerusalem Day turned the capital into a huge bottleneck, making it impossible for even the prime minister to stick to his schedule. Overloaded with events which demanded his presence as incumbent and campaigning premier, Shimon Peres realized that there was no way he could make it to a Tel Aviv reception. It was to honor Eisenberg and celebrate the inauguration of Dead Sea Magnesium Ltd., the joint venture of the Dead Sea Works and Volkswagen.

Peres's solution: He invited VW chairman Dr. Ferdinand Piech to meet him in his Jerusalem office before the reception. Piech was in Jerusalem anyway to meet with President Weizman.

At the reception later in the evening, there was a very emotional moment during the screening of a film documenting the history of the project, whose initial memorandum of understanding was signed by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Almost all eyes transferred momentarily from the screen to the prime minister's son Yuval Rabin, who was among the guests. It was one of those rare fragments in time when you could have heard a pin drop.

APPEARING AT the Jerusalem Day Extravaganza at the Sultan's Pool, singer Dudu Fischer recalled that when he was invited to New York to play the lead in the Broadway production of *Les Miserables* he had stipulated that he does not play Friday night shows or Saturday matinees.

He had been pleasantly surprised when the producers agreed to the conditions, but experienced some trepidation when he first entered the theater. It was only after he was shown to his dressing room that he breathed a sigh of relief. Looking up he saw a sign with his name and the name of Jean Valjean, the character which he played. Underneath was the name of Jim Morrison who played the role when Fisher was unavailable, and under Morrison's name were the words "Shabbos Goy."

CHIEF RABBI Yisrael Meir Lau asked his hosts at the Kiryat Limudim dinner whether they wanted him to announce the good news. On receiving the nod, he disclosed that Bnei Hayil Yeshiva, the boys' school under the Kiryat Limudim umbrella, was moving to a large and permanent location on the premises of Jerusalem's Denmark School.

Parents have waged a two-year struggle to have their under-achieving, hyperactive youngsters recognized by the education authorities as a special category of children with learning disabili-

ties. For them, the announcement was an almost unbelievable triumph. All that remains for them is to find an equally good location for the girls' school, Ulpana Neveh Ruhama.

AS FAR as anyone knows, David H. Eisenmann, the newly installed general manager of Swissair in Israel, is the only general manager of any airline operating here who wears a Kippa all the time. Members of the airline and travel industries gathered at the Tel Aviv Hilton last Thursday to join Eisenmann in celebrating his promotion. They also bid farewell to his predecessor and colleague of 28 years, Dov Golan, who is now in charge of Swissair's Amsterdam office.

Throughout their years with the company, Eisenmann has filled several positions vacated by Golan, but now their relationship has come full circle, with Golan being posted to the country where Eisenmann was born. Among those on hand to wish both men well was Alex Ackermann, who came from Zurich for the occasion. Ackermann, who was Swissair's Israel manager for 12 years, was Golan's immediate predecessor.

IF SOMEONE had told her six months ago that she would not participate in the elections for the 14th Knesset, Ora Nami, the former minister for labor and social affairs, would have been incredulous. But Nami, who resigned this week to take up her new position as Israel's ambassador to China, missed the opportunity to vote in last week's polls held in Israeli diplomatic missions abroad, and left the country exactly two weeks in advance of Election Day.

Small farewell parties were held in her honor while she was still in office, and the Association of Social Workers published large advertisements in the Hebrew press expressing appreciation for the "revolutionary" changes which she had pushed through during her 3 1/2 years at the helm. Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss wrote her a letter in which he called her a "fighter for justice" and declared that her presence would be missed in the Knesset.

On the day she tendered her resignation, Nami received a briefing from her predecessor in Beijing, Moshe Ben-Ya'acov, who will be operating out of Tokyo.

THERE ARE many forms of exercise, but Argentinian composer/conductor/instrumentalist Lalo Schiffrin gets his through old-fashioned courtesy. At a party hosted in his honor by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Foundation at the Ramat Hasharon home of Riki and Moshe Castiel, Schiffrin kept bobbing up and down like a yo-yo, and it soon became apparent that the reason was always a woman. Each time a woman approached him, his good breeding brought him to his feet.

Schiffrin deliberately came here after the recent wave of terror attacks. "For me," he explained, "the only statement I could make against terrorism is to come to Israel to play here."

BRITISH Ambassador David Manning hosted a dinner on Monday in honor of Field Marshal Lord Bramall, chairman of the Imperial War Museum. Lord Bramall is here with a fact-finding team to consult colleagues at Yad Vashem, Beit Lohamei Hageta'ot, the Diaspora Museum and the Tower of David Museum on the Israeli experience in establishing Holocaust museums.

The IWM is preparing its own permanent Holocaust exhibition, scheduled for completion by the turn of the century.

'Davar Rishon' tried, then called it a day

AFTER two years of fighting for their newspaper's life, *Davar Rishon's* workers have had to admit defeat.

The bid to buy the newspaper and merge it with *Telegraph* failed, and the veteran Histadrut tribune this week finally shut its doors after 71 years.

In the final editorial, titled "We Tried," on the front page of *Davar Rishon's* last edition on Tuesday, editor-in-chief Ron Ben-Yishai wrote:

"Seventy-one years ago the Histadrut and Berl Katznelson founded *Davar* to promote and project into Israeli society the values of the Labor movement and Zionism. Today, the Histadrut is closing *Davar Rishon*, because in Israel at the end of the 1990s, values are in the liability column of the profit-and-loss sheet of a company sold on the stock market. Zionism has long ceased to be merchandise in demand."

The dilapidated building on Sheinkin Street, which up until this week served as the home of *Davar Rishon's* editorial offices, was empty on Tuesday except for Efrim Davidi, the chairman of the journalists' union.

David had been asked to be there by a television crew from Tahana Merkazi, the local Tel Aviv news channel, which that evening ran a piece on the end of a newspaper.

He strolled alone through peeling corridors, touching the press machinery, tapping the computer terminals. He had always remained cheerful in the many previous times of crisis when closure seemed certain. He had never given up hope.

Now, for the first time in the past two years of fighting for the newspaper's survival, this incurable optimist was crestfallen.

"How do you think I feel?" he responded to my question. "I'm depressed."

But a moment later he pulled himself together to give this column a last little exclusive tidbit - the journalists are exploring the possibility of publishing a national weekly, "to fight for social causes," he revealed.

FLAP FLAP

The sound of barrel bottoms



Shetreet: One of the lucky 150,000 to receive a Shas election kit.

being scraped this week turned out to be political spin doctors looking for some original scrap for the election-propaganda broadcasts.

Likud campaigners, stung by complaints that their clips were too monotonous and repetitive (who hired that Arthur Finkelstein anyway?), tried some variety with Dan Meridor, David Levy and a more nasal-than-ever Rafal. Benny Begin proved that he could out-repeat even Bibi Netanyahu, five times shouting "Netanyahu, Mahal, Mahal, Netanyahu."

But the one who really seemed to be stealing the show from Bibi was a ubiquitous figure draped in a keffiyeh - the same one who stars in the *Harizim* phone-call sketches that begin "Ma nishma, Yasser, ma nishma, Shimon!"

A visitor might be forgiven for wondering who is this Arab running for prime minister of Israel. Even Likud stalwarts were quipping that perhaps Arafat is that mysterious "surprise" cabinet minister Bibi has been promising.

If a surprise is needed to do the trick and wake up an election campaign that sends the nation yawning all the way to the fridge when the propaganda broadcasts roll, the candidates are in dire

THE WEEK THAT WAS MICHAL YUDELMAN

need of one.

The speculation (mainly by desperate journalists, it must be admitted) is that a surprise statement in the final television debate between Peres and Bibi on Sunday could jolt the dozing viewers into tossing a few crumbs of floating vote to the candidate who first yells "Boo!"

Labor, meanwhile, amused itself by showing hopefully shocked viewers what really happens to the Likud's soaring peace dove, as exposed by Television's Channel 2. Soaring my foot as the dove might say, for its foot is firmly tied to a stick and the soft-focus wing beat is an irritated flap. There goes the bird-lovers' vote.

HOLY WARS
THE religious and haredi parties for some reason abandoned their respective flocks this week to hunt down the secular vote with vigor.

The National Religious Party tired of kippa-toting university students with eyes that glint at the mention of "Eretz Yisrael" and rounded up some rusedged secular sons of the soil (of Rafal's ilk) to sing the party's praises.

Shas, following in the footsteps of the defunct Kach, embarked on a quest to save chaste Jewish maidens who might be tempted into marrying Arabs and live in their villages from this fate worse than death.

Meretz youth sent Knesset members some anti-nausea tablets "as an antidote to the racism of the Shas broadcast." Meretz accused Shas of portraying Israel's Arab citizens as pimps and drug addicts who snatch innocent Israeli girls.

"It is a racist broadcast," said Meretz Minister Shulamit Aloni who expressed shock that such clips were approved for airing. "In Europe during the 1930s they had films like that about pure Aryan German girls who must be saved from Jews."

Agudat Yisrael showed a serene picture of Jerusalem's pedestrian mall on a sunny day, full of happy



Perhaps Arafat is that 'surprise' minister Bibi has been promising.

young men and women filling the sidewalk cafes and enjoying life.

Then... cut! To a somber scene of all-male mass prayer at the Western Wall with a sinister glimpse of Al-Aksa Mosque above it.

At first glance one might think Agudat Yisrael was warning us of what a parochial place Jerusalem has become. But no, exactly the opposite.

The lively scene, full of joie-de-vivre and hope, was the dangerous one. Get it?

SIGNS AND WHISPERS

SHAS activists continued distributing "election kits" with the blessing of Kabbalist rebbe Yitzhak Kaduri to voters this week, despite the instructions of Central Election Committee chairman Justice Theodore Orr to stop doing so.

The election kits - amulets and memorial candles bearing Kaduri's image - are supposed to bring a blessing on those who vote for Shas and protect them from terrorist attacks and other disasters. On the other hand, if you don't vote for Shas, the blessings

turn nasty... One of the lucky 150,000 who received Shas's election kits was none other than Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet, who was asked like everyone else to sign a commitment that he would vote for Shas. "In that case, take it back," Shetreet retorted. They let him keep it anyway - it is a two-edged kit after all.

The NRP, whose rabbis pronounced Shas's amulets and blessings "idol worship," decided to take no chances with the powers of darkness.

They issued their "undoing vows" kit to release those who received Shas's amulets from their commitment to vote for Shas while protecting them from "the amulet's revenge."

Former Sephardi chief rabbi Mordechai Eilahu issued a halachic ruling stating that Kaduri's memorial candles and amulets must be "put away, because it has the image of a man in relief on it, which is severely prohibited."

Other rabbis installed an open telephone line for all those wishing to cancel the commitment to Shas, without bringing disaster upon themselves and their families.

But Kaduri had the last word. He announced via his spokesperson that so far the amulets have prevented many terrorist attacks and disasters. He said these terrible things might be unleashed now that the amulet flow has been halted.

Meanwhile, inspired by Justice Orr's prohibition on the use of all blessings, curses and vows, to pressure, extort or attract votes, United Torah Judaism has resorted to making people vote against their better judgment by means of witchcraft, incantations, blessings and curses," in the words of Oran Yekutieli, Meretz's faction head in the Jerusalem municipality.

"And these are the people Peres wants to form a coalition with, instead of us," Meretz leader Minister Yossi Sarid sighed. His sigh was echoed - albeit very silently - by many senior Labor figures.

ELECTIONS 1996

THE ISSUES IN ENGLISH

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To Israel's 1996 National Election Media Center

ELECTION INSIGHTS BY TOP NEWSMAKERS

Monday, May 27, 8:30 a.m.
"Where is the Religious Vote Going... The Morning After the Elections?"

PANEL: Prof. Shimon Shetreet, MK, Minister of Religious Affairs, Labor Rabbi Avraham Karivitz, MK, Agudat Yisrael - Degel Hatorah Prof. Avner Shalev, MK, National Religious Party Yosef Ben Aharon, Likud, Former Director of Prime Minister's Office Moderator: Dr. Avi Baker, Executive Director, Israel Council on Foreign Relations

Tuesday, May 28, 5:30 p.m.
"The Last Showdown"

Dr. Yossi Beilin, MK, Cabinet Minister, Labor Ehud Olmert, Mayor of Jerusalem, Likud MK Moderator: Yehuda Levy, President and Publisher, The Jerusalem Post

Followed by Perspectives of:
Abdoul Wahab Darawshe, MK, Democratic Arab Party Prof. Naomi Chazan, MK, Meretz Zvi Wehberg, Knesset Candidate, Yisrael Ba'Aliya Prof. Claude Klein, Faculty of Law, Hebrew University Moderator: Nick Iatro, Chairman, Foreign Press Association

And a major program FOR JOURNALISTS ONLY on Election Night, Wednesday, May 29, from 8 p.m. Details in Tuesday's Jerusalem Post, or call for invitation.

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Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Berkovits

RABBI MORDECHAI GAFNI

As we approach Shavuot our tradition asks us one overpowering question. Are we receiving the Torah anew — is a new covenant being formed — or are we merely renewing the same old contract? To receive the Torah anew suggests an active and creative process; to renew the old contract is an act which is essentially static and passive, often motivated primarily by the inertia of intellectual and emotional laziness.

Laziness was defined by one modern psychologist as the unwillingness or inability to invest the effort and pain necessary to draw new maps for living when

the old ones no longer fully reflect our new situation.

The person who dedicated most of his creative life to the attempt to forge a dynamic and creative "Kabbalat Hatorah" for our epoch in history was Rabbi Professor Eliezer Berkovits. Berkovits was perhaps one of the first thinkers to respond in a fresh and original manner to the challenges facing the Jewish people in the latter half of the twentieth century.

With the exception of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, no thinker had more of an impact in fashioning the world view of a generation of modern Orthodox Rabbis than did Eliezer Berkovits.

"Everybody" read Berkovits. Most adopted his core ideas almost as a matter of course into their own world views. David Hartman, Norman Lamm, Shlomo Riskin, Irving Greenberg, Daniel Tropper all owe a debt of intellectual gratitude to Berkovits. His first major book, *God, Man, and History* remains to this day the most eloquent and forceful explication of the implicit self-understandings of what has of late come to be called centrist Orthodoxy.

The core of his thinking revolves around his understanding of history as being the primary arena of Jewish living. God encounters man in history; the Jew is invited to encounter God in History. All other encounters, between person and person, person and nature, and person and self take place in the framework of these two primary encounters.

However, everything occurs in history. God reveals himself to humanity not in the rapture with the mystic but in an event in history. For Berkovits that event — the theophany of Sinai — is a beginning, not an end. God's primary directive for the Halachic Jew is to take the content of revelation and apply it creatively to the ever-changing "concrete situation."

Berkovits often cited the Talmudic application of a biblical verse: "Lo Ba'shamayim hi" — the Torah is not in Heaven. The divine mandate is to apply the fundamental ethical and philosophical principles of the Torah anew in every Generation.

What is unique and often misunderstood is that Berkovits' thinking has nothing to do with the

The Approach of Rabbi Eliezer Berkovits (z"l) to Shavuot and Halacha

Conservative movement's conception of tradition and change. Berkovits is an Orthodox thinker in the deepest sense of the word. The notion that Halacha should be adjusted to contemporary reality was emphatically rejected by him. He writes: "Halacha is not subjective adjustment at all — although a specific law may be adjusted — but not for the sake of adjusting to the specific situation."

How then does the law develop? Not, says Berkovits, through a process of accommodation but through a process of organic growth.

"When in a given situation a specific law is in conflict with another law, principle or concern of the Torah, the specific law may be limited in its application, reinterpreted, adapted, suspended or changed in this one situation, but not abolished, by the overruling concern of the Total Torah."

Berkovits' underlying assumption is a distinction between Halacha and meta-Halacha. Halacha is the framework for implementing the values and norms of the meta-Halacha. Meta-halacha is the core ethical/theological principles which are implicit in the law and guide its development. The authority to interpret the law in a way which will allow it to fulfill the mandate of meta-halacha without violating its own integrity rests with those who have absorbed into their essential consciousness the ethos of the law. This happens not as a result of publishing a paper at an academic conference; it is rather a function of a "lifetime of dedication and commitment to the Torah and its living realization."

Consider a specific example: According to biblical law two witnesses are required to validate evidence in a court of law. The Rabbis, however, made an exception to this requirement of Biblical law. In the case of a husband who has disappeared, one witness was held to be sufficient to prove the

death of the husband and thereby allow the woman to remarry. This is in direct contradiction to an explicit biblical law. The relevant Talmudic commentaries provide a number of possible technical interpretations of the law which could serve as the legal basis for this ruling (*Babylonian Talmud, Yevamot 88b*). However, it is clear from the Talmudic text that the primary motivation for the ruling was an overriding ethical imperative. The Talmud itself suggests this understanding when it explains this and other laws of similar nature with the phrase "mishum aguna akellu boh rabanan;" meaning: in order to save the wife from the status of an Agunah — from being a woman forever tied to a man who has disappeared — they applied the law leniently in her case.

How were the Rabbis able to resolve the perceived contradiction between the letter of the law and the ethos of the law? They had no written text or oral tradition from which to draw specific guidance. Should they uphold the apparent meaning of the law or should they uphold the dignity and right for personal fulfillment of the Agunah? The resolution is found in the soul of the interpreter. Here Berkovits is suggesting that in a life of complete dedication to the sources, the line between the text and the persona of the authoritative interpreter becomes blurred. His soul and the soul of the Torah begin to merge.

Torah in the Litvmanian classics — which were the mental furniture in Berkovits' mind — is actually a refraction of the will of God. The scholar merges with the Torah. In some sense, therefore, the deepest intuition of the Scholar is our best understanding of the will of God.

The Torah, suggests 15th century philosopher Joseph Albo, is actually designed in such a fashion as to demand this kind of interaction between the interpreter, the text and the reality which they both address. Albo writes: "It is impossible that the Torah should be complete in such a manner that it should provide in advance for all times. The forever emerging new particulars of the law, the affairs of men... are too numerous to be contained in a book. Therefore, at Sinai Moses orally received general principles

which were briefly hinted at in the Torah so that through them teachers in each generation would develop new particulars."

The written law cannot possibly rule in advance about every future eventuality. Rather, its intention is to provide general principles with which to approach every new concrete reality. The classic example adduced by Berkovits is the case of Hillel's "prosbol." According to the written law all debts are annulled in the seventh year ("shmitta"). In Talmudic times, to allow the law to stand as it was would have meant that the wealthy would stop lending to the poor come close to shmitta year, worried that if the debt would not be paid before seventh year, it would be annulled. Thus the interests of the poor were at stake. On the other hand, the Rabbis knew that an economy in which loans could not be collected would ultimately collapse. Thus the interest of the wealthier class, who had more to lose, was also at stake. Hillel's creative solution, the "prosbol" — a legal fiction which effectively transformed private debt which could not be collected into collectable public debt. Berkovits rhetorically asks: "Where did Hillel find the authority for his innovation? Where was it written in the Torah? It was of course not found in any text, in any code. He found within himself."

This is the classic illustration of Berkovits' understanding of the halachic process. In the clash between a specific law and overarching meta-laws, between the needs of the poor, the effective functioning of the economy and the prohibition to collect outstanding debt after the seventh year had started — the scholar must look for resolution in the symbiosis of his scholarship, piety and creativity.

It is critical at this juncture to point out that Berkovits was clearly aware that all three factors are necessary. Neither scholarship, piety or creativity in and of themselves have the mandate or authority to develop halacha. Only the balance of all three allows the law to respond to the present without forsaking the guiding vision of the past or forfeiting the consequences of the future. This means that not every apparent ethical sensibility can be immediately accommodated by the halacha. The halacha has independent ontological status.

At the same time, the challenge of creativity in law for Berkovits is fundamentally different than

the understanding of his contemporary and colleague, Rabbi Soloveitchik.

For Soloveitchik, halachic creativity is expressed in the formulation of theoretical categories of the law. These categories allow us to understand the basic concepts underlying halachic categories. Soloveitchik explicitly argues in his book *Halachic Man* that the process of intellectual creativity in halacha must be always divorced from the exigencies of the hour. The halachist, like the theoretical physicist, lives in the world of abstract constructs. Such is his glory.

For Rabbi Berkovits, such a position is a fundamental violation of the halachic process. The creativity in halacha can only be at the intersection of the text, the concrete moment and the unique persona scholar.

Berkovits knew that the legal vitality he described ceased not that long after the codification of the Talmud. With the introduction of detailed written codes in the medieval period, the oral law, originally written down in response to the pressures of history, lost much of its ability to respond cogently and creatively to new realities. This was a necessity: an accessible code of law was indispensable in the face of a world-wide dispersion and intense persecution.

Berkovits implicitly suggests — and herein lies the daring excitement in his thinking — that just as we responded to history in codifying the oral law to survive the exile, we need again to weigh halacha with the creative process. Persecution and dispersion stultified halacha; the new reality of the ingathering of the exiles and the State of Israel should dynamize it.

Something has happened in the last hundred and fifty years. For halacha to remain in the Striel at a time when the Jew has long ago left it behind is to violate the essential telos of the law and therefore to desecrate the name of God.

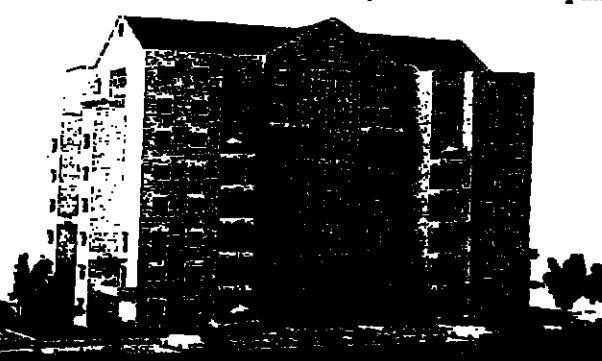
Ultimately, this was the motivating force in Berkovits' life — to bring the Torah down to earth, to history, to the concrete situation — and to cause God to once again laugh in joy as he is overruled in halachic decision by his children, who proclaim with full reverence and autonomy "It is not in Heaven."

The author is the Director and scholar in residence of Hillel. His doctoral thesis is on halachic development and Rabbi Eliezer Berkovits.

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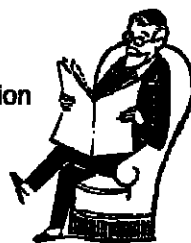
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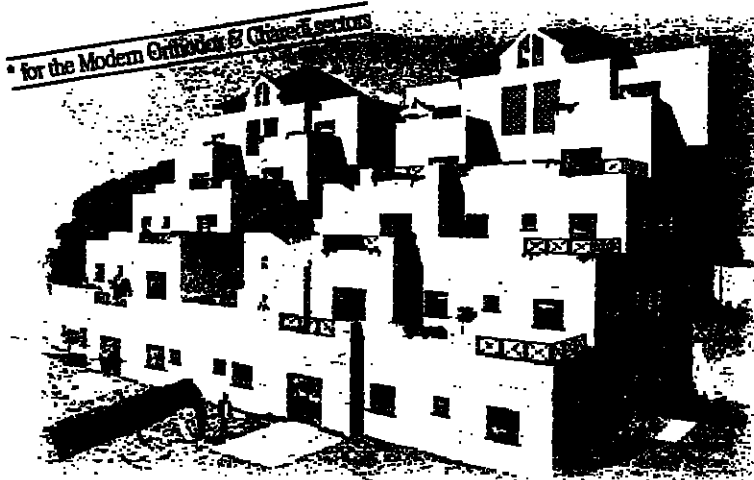
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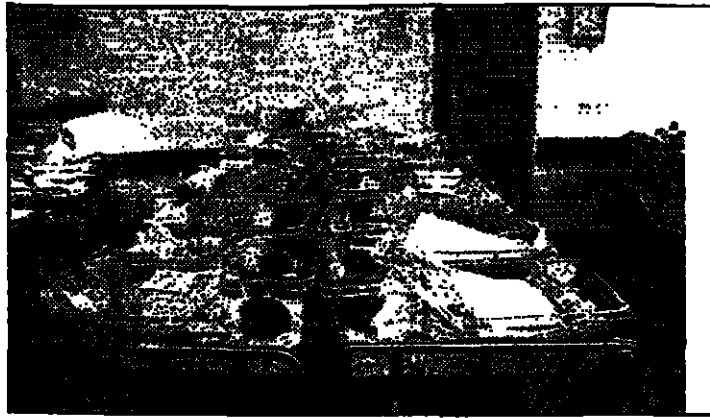
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Laniado Hospital Develops Cancer Treatment Services

Shavuot marks the first anniversary of Laniado's enlarged Maternity Department in the new building of the Sanz Medical Center in Netanya. Like the Jewish people who came of age between Pesach and Shavuot, so too the Laniado Hospital came of age with the opening of the new modern Medical Center Building last Shavuot.

Chaim Fachler, Director of Laniado's Development and Fundraising, explains that the Netanya hospital has upgraded in so many spheres. Not only has there been an increase of 60 percent in the number of deliveries per month - now over 300 - there is also a distinct upbeat mood with regards to future development plans. Health Minister Dr. Ephraim Sneh recently announced that 150 additional beds are earmarked for Laniado Hospital by the year 2000.

"This will need additional aggressive world-wide fundraising," says Fachler, "but we are prepared for the challenge." It is no surprise that Laniado Hospital, the only hospital serving the health



care needs of the over 220,000 residents of the Greater Netanya area, has developed into an institution where many highly-qualified professionals are making important inroads in a wide range of cancer treatments and environmental and occupational health areas.

It now takes only five minutes for Netanya residents requiring chemotherapy to reach the outpatient unit. With the recent opening of the new Oncology Unit at Sanz Medical Center Laniado Hospital, patients no longer have

to travel to hospitals in Petah Tikva and Tel Aviv for treatment. Over 200 people a month have already been treated at the new unit.

Directed by Dr. Yael Merrick, the unit has already received a stack of thank-you letters from patients who appreciate the special personal care they receive.

Laniado is also making its mark with the operation of its Chernobyl Clinic which was especially established to address the needs of the over 8,000 residents

of Netanya who had resided in the Chernobyl area of the former Soviet Union.

The Hematology Unit, under the direction of Dr. Shlomo Bulvik, has also taken an active part in helping the community. Dr. Bulvik's department is routinely crowded. The Hematology Unit will shortly be installing a Cord Stem Cell System which will store cells extracted from the mother's placenta after birth.

These cells could be used as perfect matches for bone marrow tissue transplants. The Laniado medical staff is involved in a number of innovative projects; during the next two months about eight papers will be presented at international conferences describing new research and treatments by Laniado's doctors.

Fachler is full of confidence: "We have certainly come of age. We are proud of our achievements. We thank all our supporters in Israel and worldwide for the incredible dedication they show. Together we will continue the mission founder of the Sanz Medical Center Laniado Hospital."

Michlalah Jerusalem College

The night of intensive Torah study on Shavuot is an extremely memorable and moving experience for the students of "Machal" (the Linda Pinsky School for Overseas Students at Michlalah Jerusalem College). Machal's 150 students participate in an all-night session of Torah study and lectures by the Michlalah faculty, and they then walk to the Western Wall and join in the sunrise services.

Each year Machal attracts outstanding high school graduates from overseas who are motivated to spend a year in Israel studying Torah, advancing their level of Torah knowledge and developing their learning skills. About a quarter of them continue their studies at Michlalah for at least another year. Michlalah, founded in 1964 by Rabbi Yehudah Cooperman, renowned Biblical exegete and author, is Israel's premier teachers' college. It includes 14 schools and programs that offer a wide range of Torah and general subjects. Close to 4,000 graduates are presently engaged in education and administration all over the world. Michlalah offers majors in Jewish

Studies, Mathematics, Computer Science, English Language and Literature, Music, Biology, Chemistry, Accounting, Early Childhood, Intermediate and Secondary Education, Special Education, Guidance and Counseling, and Communication in Education.

Michlalah, the first college in Israel to award Bachelor of Education Degrees, pioneered the academization of Israel's school teachers through its extension studies and retraining programs.

The Women's Extension Studies Program has a current registration of 600 non-academically trained women teachers from all over the country. They come to Michlalah to complete their degree requirements in Jewish Studies or other disciplines.

The Special Education Program for Extension Studies not only offers a degree program for non-academic teachers but also offers a program for academically-trained teachers in other fields who remain to specialize in this field. A retraining program in guidance and counseling is also offered. An M.A. Equivalency Program in Jewish



Studies allows teachers the opportunity of advancing professionally. Two hundred women are presently registered in this program.

An off-campus Extension Studies Program for Yeshiva men with Teacher Certification, launched in 1992, offers an advanced Jewish Studies B. Ed. Degree Program.

More than 450 have been awarded. A men's program for the training of

principals offers experienced teachers a Ministry of Education Principal Certification; a number of graduates have already received appointments as principals.

Michlalah's developing Home Page: <http://www.jercol.maccan98.ac.il> offers educational services. Pinsky's Teachers Employment Service is located at: <http://www.jercol.maccan98.ac.il/pinsky.html>

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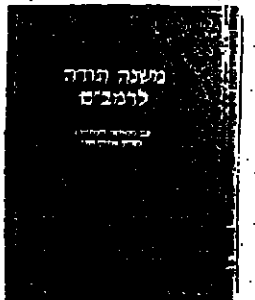
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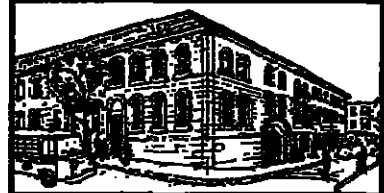
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Young "baharei yeshiva" at the renowned Mercaz Harav Yeshiva in Jerusalem, instilled with the unwavering belief in Eretz Yisrael as the heritage of our fathers, established a yeshiva in the monument housing Rachel Imeinu's burial site.

Sounds of prayer and Torah study resound in the Beit Midrash of the yeshiva, which is a branch of the central Mercaz Harav Yeshiva in Kiryat Moshe. The yeshiva has just celebrated its first anniversary, and its ongoing Torah activities are the most effective way of strengthening and ensuring the Jewish people's ownership and authority over the Tomb of Rachel Imeinu.

An attempt was made to erect a fence around the tomb, but since it aroused the ire of Bethlehem's Arab population, the plan was foiled. The permanent presence

of "baharei yeshiva" at the tomb site nevertheless greatly strengthens our ability to watch over and guard Rachel Imeinu, just as she constantly looks out for us.

You are invited to come to visit Rachel Imeinu, to offer your encouragement to these self-sacrificing young men whose constant presence there ensures that Rachel Imeinu truly remains with us.

Every Jewish man and woman has as his or her birthright, the right to have a share in Rachel's Tomb. Requests for prayers to be said for loved ones may be faxed to (02) 654-0356. To have a share in the mitzva of watching over Rachel Imeinu and her resting place, you can send your donation to POB 34100, Jerusalem, Rachel Imeinu, Tel.: (02)651-1248.

The Jerusalem College of Technology:

Bringing High-Tech Management and Marketing to Israel

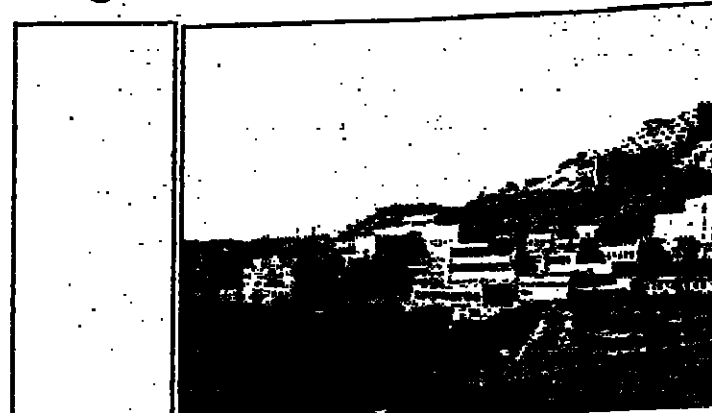
by Gershon Miles

What comes first - Research and Development or Marketing Surveys? Contrary to what most Israelis believe, both are necessary to ensure that the product you are developing will have market appeal and the right price. Everyone today understands the importance of the effective use of media campaigns for marketing a new brand of toothpaste, but Israel's high-tech companies cannot easily find professional marketing experts who are also comfortable with the technology behind the product. Having a proficient marketing engineer can make all the difference in successfully planning and executing a marketing strategy. But there is more than that. Many times, the marketing engineer who keeps his ears open will return to his headquarters with information about opportunities for new products, competitor's selling points and other valuable inputs.

The Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT) is Israel's first institute of higher learning to offer an undergraduate degree in Technology Management and Marketing. The new program, slated to begin in September, will serve the changing needs of industry

and create a more efficient link between Israel's proven engineering capability and nascent marketing expertise. The JCT program proposes to train a new generation of professionals who will bridge the worlds of technology management and marketing. Technology management is the discipline that successful high-tech ventures use to address issues that cross the boundaries of technology and market development.

Some of the basic questions are: What technology should be developed? When are strategic partners needed? How do you channel engineering creativity towards innovative high value-added products that customers buy? The lack of technology management is a major cause for failures of Israeli high-tech companies. Technology management is not a new idea. It started at a few leading US engineering schools and spread to hundreds of institutions worldwide in response to increasingly intense global competition in the high technology sector. "The field continues to expand in both the US and non-US universities," reported the IEEE Engineering Management Society. Most US full-time technology management students are in undergraduate programs at engineering



The Jerusalem College of Technology in its environs

schools. Based on the experience of US institutions, JCT - the only high-tech engineering college in Jerusalem - views this new department as a natural fit. The college supplies about 25 per cent of Israel's engineers in the fields of electro-optics, electronics and computers. Already in 1992, JCT recognized the need for better management tools and opened Israel's only department in Managerial Accounting. Traditional approaches to management and marketing education are isolated from technology.

Business school graduates learn about management but not about technology, while engineers have difficulty communicating with marketing managers

who do not understand "techno-speak." Only when engineering managers go to business school or after many years of work experience do the worlds of technology management and marketing come together. That is why JCT's program is so unique.

The college is now recruiting students and corporate sponsors for the 1996-97 academic year. The new technology management and marketing program combines academic studies with real world experience in projects for local high-tech ventures. More information is available on the Internet home page <http://shkel.jct.ac.il/~tmm>, or from Dr. Gershon Miles, (02) 751148, head of the JCT Technology Management and Marketing Program.



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puter screen. The Institute's library has a large selection of books in Braille or on tapes for the pupil's use. There is a wide choice of textbooks for high school and university students and a large collection of religious works also available. The recording studio and news service enable the blind throughout Israel to keep up with current events.

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The IFLA grants over 200 new loans every month, but the need

is much greater. The waiting list for new loans continues to grow.

The IFLA is a respected non-profit organization, registered and approved by the Israel Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Finance. All donations are tax-deductible. The IFLA is completely non-political and managed by a small staff (many of whom are immigrants themselves), supported by many experienced and dedicated volunteers. The IFLA is managed by a volunteer board of directors, chaired by Professor Eliezer Jaffe, and assisted by a volunteer Advisory Committee. All activities of the IFLA are monitored

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In view of the waiting list of loan applicants, the IFLA urgently needs new contributions. Because of an excellent

record of reliability and accountability in administering funds, donors have chosen to use the IFLA for direct donations and for opening their charitable loan programs in Israel.

The IFLA was chosen as recipient of the Mayor of Jerusalem's Citation for Outstanding Non-Profit Voluntary Organization for 1995.

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For more information, write to the Israel Free Loan Association, 64 Azza Road, Jerusalem, 92384.

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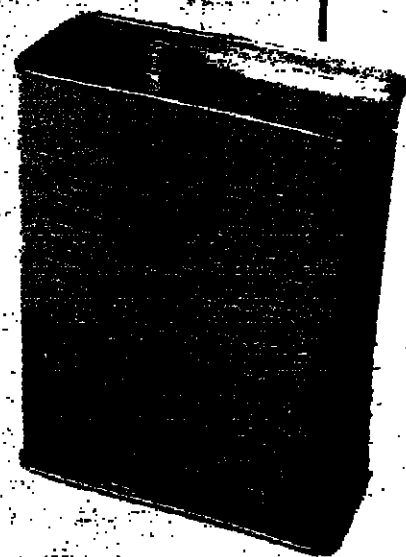
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Astaire and Partners Ltd. Member of the London Stock Exchange International Money Managers and Stockbrokers Dealing worldwide in bonds and equities...

Gov't probes cartel charges against Bank Tefahot, insurers

BANK Tefahot and eight insurance companies are under investigation on suspicions that they are acting as a cartel, a Bank of Israel spokesman confirmed yesterday.

earthquake insurance policies on apartments to Bank Tefahot borrowers in 1995. Bank Tefahot, which is the largest mortgage bank in the country, is suspected of mediating in the insurance field without being licensed to do so.

with. As far as we know, [the bank] is legally covered." Clal Insurance's participation in Tefahot customers' insurance policies is 26.5%.

ing them of the severity of their actions and asking for their reactions. So far, he has not received a response.

Mizrahi workers: Strike to resume next week

UNITED Mizrahi Bank (UMB) workers yesterday decided to stop negotiations with management and renew work sanctions as of next week.

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Africa-Israel profits up 15%

AFRICA Israel Investments completed the first quarter with a 15-percent growth in net profits to NIS 33.6 million from NIS 29m. in the corresponding period last year.

from NIS 22.49m. Migdal reported a rise in net profit to NIS 33.26m. from NIS 20.2m. The rise was mainly due to a significant improvement in profits from the general insurance business to NIS 18.9m. from NIS 1m.

Henkel buys 50% of Sod

SHEMEN, a subsidiary of Koor's food division, has signed an agreement to sell 50 percent of its fully owned subsidiary, detergent manufacturer Sod, to the German Henkel consortium for NIS 23.59 million.

ment of a general manager and financial manager. In an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Shemen said the agreement is retroactive to the start of the year.

Hamashbir Investments issues shares at \$26m.

HAMASHBIR Hamerakzi's board of directors has approved a private issue of 40 percent of its holding company Hamashbir Investments to a consortium of investors, headed by Africa Israel, for \$26 million.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS Table with columns for Currency (Sheqels, U.S. dollar, German mark, etc.), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS rates.

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Mark ... NIS 2.1157 -0.41%

INFLATION STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

DJ Industrial 7775.52 +0.28
DJ Transport 2296.82 +1.27
DJ Utility 2145.12 +0.62

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100 3764.2 -0.2
Tokyo Nikkei average 2145.12 +0.7

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX
Amptel A 3.25 +0.3
Amptel B 3.25 +0.3
Amptel C 3.25 +0.3

(All Ratings are closing quotes)
Connecticut Trading Ltd. (Date 22-MAY-96)

INFLATION MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Point: spot 1.5995 -0.005
D-mark: spot 1.5434 -0.019

Labor rates

Dollar 3 months 5.6288 0
Dollar 12 months 5.675 0

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

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INFLATION COMMODITIES: ANIS-METALS

US commodities

Cocoa (AM) 1383 +0.5
Coffee (AM) 120.45 -0.25
Sugar (AM) 11.38 -0.01

Spot market metals (US)

Gold: spot 367.75 +0.1
Silver: spot 5.52 +0.03

New York metal futures

Gold (Aug) 365.3 -0.9
Silver (Aug) 5.43 -0.04
Platinum (Aug) 621.0 -0.2

London metal futures

Gold (Jul) 365.3 -0.9
Silver (Jul) 5.43 -0.04
Platinum (Jul) 621.0 -0.2

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Commercial Banks: Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, Bank Mizrahi
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Industrials: Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, Bank Mizrahi



The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange report was unavailable due to technical difficulties.

Euro shares weakened by Wall Street jitters

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European shares were undermined by Wall Street's volatility yesterday, first extending their earlier losses, then rallying, only to end under pressure.
French shares suffered the most, losing 1.23 percent. British shares shed 0.67 percent and German shares were off 0.6 percent in post-bourse computerized trading.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK: Amptel, Bezeq, Cellcom, Golan, Intel, Microsoft
LONDON: Amptel, Bezeq, Cellcom, Golan, Intel, Microsoft
PARIS: Amptel, Bezeq, Cellcom, Golan, Intel, Microsoft
FRANKFURT: Amptel, Bezeq, Cellcom, Golan, Intel, Microsoft

Blue chips hit new high

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks jumped into the record books again yesterday, after a one-day pause for profit-taking on Tuesday.

TURKEY

(Continued from Page 1) Adm. Guven Erkaya, commander of the Turkish navy, is now visiting Israel at the invitation of OC Navy Rear-Adm. Alex Tal. Erkaya is due to meet with Prime Minister Shimon Peres today.

LONDON

It is precisely the support of the powerful Turkish military which gives Israel and analysts hope that the agreement will withstand the criticism of Syria, Iran, and Islamic elements inside Turkey.

CLINTON

(Continued from Page 1) Following the sixth day of meetings, Syrian Ambassador Walid Mualem told reporters Tuesday evening that Damascus had proposed that the five-member committee - to be comprised of the US, France, Israel, Syria, and Lebanon - be convened within 72 hours after the lodging of a complaint of a cease-fire violation, no retaliatory action could occur.

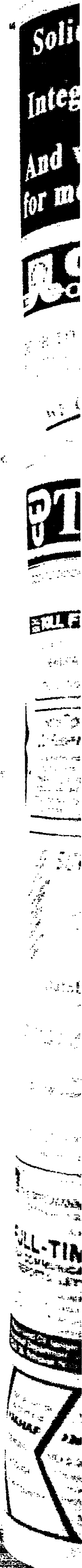
PARIS

The US view is based on conversations held recently between Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Israeli, Lebanese, and Syrian leaders, Burns said. He said he did not know whether Damascus' agreement to proceed with the negotiations is conditioned on Peres emerging victorious next week.

FRANKFURT

Muslem said that in the event of an incident in Lebanon, the Israeli representative would not be part of the investigating team, and if in Israel, the Syrian and Lebanese officials would not be included. In such cases, the US and French would enter the territory, he said.

The Currency Cross-Rates were unavailable last night.



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PROGRAM SPECIALIST

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which administers U.S. assistance to Palestinians in support of the peace process, is seeking a highly qualified candidate for a Personal Services Contract (12 months renewable) for the position of Program Specialist. The incumbent will provide input and manage elements of the Mission's operations related to overall strategy development, budget planning, and design/implementation of activities. Specific cross-sectoral responsibilities will include: coordination of program information and planning with the Palestinian Authority and other donors; the establishment and maintenance of resource tracking systems; strategic analysis; and impact measurement and reporting. The position is based in Tel Aviv, with substantial time spent in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. The candidate should have a graduate level degree in an area such as public/business administration, political or social sciences, economics or law, fluency in English and Arabic, excellent interpersonal skills and six to eight years of progressively responsible experience working in the budgeting, planning, design and implementation of development programs. The requirement for a graduate degree may be waived based on experience level. Some significant portion of that experience should have been in the West Bank and/or Gaza. Only responses that include a detailed curriculum vitae and employment/salary history for the last three years will be considered. Responses must indicate position number C20536. Applications should be submitted no later than June 5, 1996, and sent to the following address: Personnel Office, American Embassy, 71 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, Israel.

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TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1
8:30 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel
EDUCATIONAL TV
8:00 Sesame Street 8:30 William Tell 9:20 Fairy-Tale Land 9:30 Bellanera in Pajamas 10:00 Dinosaurs in Action 10:30 The Peanut Butter Solution (1985) - a comedy about an 11-year-old boy who goes to check out a haunted house 12:00 Ya Shen, the Chinese Cinderella 12:30 The Kiss of a Sparrow - short Finnish film 13:30 Coins in the Fountain (1987) - romantic comedy about three career women vacationing in Rome. Starring Lori Anderson, Stephanie Kramer and Shana Reid. (87 mins.) 16:00 A Center in Every Place
CHANNEL 10
15:00 KALEIDOSCOPE 15:30 From Genesis 16:30 News in English
ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:35 Candid Camera 16:55 Rock Sport 17:10 The Industrial Experience - documentary about Jewish and Arab youth in industry 17:35 Wild West (1992) - Story of a Pakistani living in London who runs into problems when trying to start up a country-and-western band. Starring Naaveen Andrews and Ronny Jhutti. (85 mins.) 19:00 News
HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 New arrangements of popular Hebrew songs 20:00 Mabat News 20:15 This is your Life - Amos Ettinger hosts Tiberias-born international film maker and theatrical producer/director Menachem Golan 22:15 The Object of Beauty (1991) - Jake and Tina's lives are turned upside down when their valuable sculpture disappears. Starring Andie MacDowell, John Malkovich and Lolita Davidovich. (101 mins.) 00:00 News 00:05 A Brazilian musical happening
CHANNEL 2
8:00 Hamsa and Hamisha 8:30 A small place 10:00 The Golden Girls 10:30 Open Cards 11:30 SportTV 12:00 Massarat 12:30 Movie Magic 13:00 From the Concert Hall 13:30 Children's program in Arabic 14:00 Life Forms - CBC series 15:00 Clip - local video clips 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef 17:05 Platfus 17:35 First Love 18:05 Melodies of the Soul - special program of Jewish music 19:00 Your People are My People, Yoram Yoram (1994) (pt) 17:40 Dora Tal Her It's Me (1988) (pt) 19:20 Big Shots (1988) - Two 11-year-olds set off on a mayhem-filled urban journey. With Ricky Busker and Paul Witfield. (91 mins.) 21:00 Leap of Faith (1992) - Steve Martin is a traveling preacher whose miracle-working claims take an unexpected turn. With Debra Winger and Lolita Davidovich. 22:50 The Crying Game (1992) - An IRA fighter comes to London to escape the circle of violence and to take care of the lover of a captured British soldier he befriended. With Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Miranda Richardson and Jay Davidson. Directed by Neil Jordan. (106 mins.) 00:40 Just Another Girl on the IRT (1993) - a black girl's plans to escape the ghetto by studying medicine go awry when she becomes pregnant (93 mins.) 21:55 Snatchers (1983) - thriller (pt) 3:55 Hit List (1989) (pt) 5:20 Seeing Stars
CHANNEL 5
6:30 Cartoons 8:00 Surprise Garden 8:35 Professor Iris 9:00 Robinson Sucro 9:30 Kofiko 9:45 Kofiko 10:10 Alice in Wonderland 10:45 Nils Holgerson 11:20 Shavut at Kibbutz Yakum - with Ofel Menashe and Michal Arzi 11:55 Step by Step 12:35 Sweet Valley High 13:00 Time

CABLE

ITV 3 (83)
16:00 News 16:15 Science and Technology magazine 17:15 Contemporary People 18:00 NBA 18:05 News in Arabic 18:30 Today - News in Russian 20:00 Mabat News 20:15 Israel is Beautiful - songs by Rachel 21:15 La Femme de Cote (1981, French) - Seven years have passed since Bernard and Mathilde parted. But now fate has drawn them together again. Directed by Francois Truffaut. Starring Gerard Philipe. (105 mins.) 23:00 Bob Dylan 00:00 Closedown
ETV 2 (23)
No programs due to Shavut
FAMILY CHANNEL (3)
8:00 Falcon Crest (pt) 9:00 One Life to Live (pt) 9:45 The Young and the Restless (pt) 10:30 Second Time Around 10:55 WKRP in Cincinnati 11:25 Perla Negra (pt) 12:10 Neighbors (pt) 12:35 Dallas (pt) News in Russian 20:00 Mabat News 21:00 Jump Street 14:55 Falcon Crest 16:40 Neighbors 17:10 Dallas 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The Young and the Restless 19:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Ainsworth (pt) at Montrose 20:00 Bourles Movies - sids and parodies of the most Israeli of genres 21:30 Shabbat (1970, Hebrew) - Israeli cult classic, featuring hilarious sids depicting life in Tel Aviv in the late Sixties. (90 mins.) 22:50 A Perfect Stranger - based on the novel by Danielle Steel. With Robert Ulrich and Susan Sullivan 00:35 Babylon 5 1:20 Hunter 2:15 San Francisco Tales 3:10 The Great Defender 3:55 Paris - action series
MOVIE CHANNEL (4)
10:30 Love Can Be Murder (1992) (pt) 12:05 Supergirl (1984) - Superman's cousin comes to save the Earth (pt) 14:05 The Larry Sanders Show 14:35 Confess (1953) - a priest stands accused when he refuses to reveal a murderer's confession. With Montgomery Clift, Anne Baxter and Karl Malden. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. (90 mins.) 16:10 Because Moments Work (1994) (pt) 17:40 Dora Tal Her It's Me (1988) (pt) 19:20 Big Shots (1988) - Two 11-year-olds set off on a mayhem-filled urban journey. With Ricky Busker and Paul Witfield. (91 mins.) 21:00 Leap of Faith (1992) - Steve Martin is a traveling preacher whose miracle-working claims take an unexpected turn. With Debra Winger and Lolita Davidovich. 22:50 The Crying Game (1992) - An IRA fighter comes to London to escape the circle of violence and to take care of the lover of a captured British soldier he befriended. With Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Miranda Richardson and Jay Davidson. Directed by Neil Jordan. (106 mins.) 00:40 Just Another Girl on the IRT (1993) - a black girl's plans to escape the ghetto by studying medicine go awry when she becomes pregnant (93 mins.) 21:55 Snatchers (1983) - thriller (pt) 3:55 Hit List (1989) (pt) 5:20 Seeing Stars
CHILDREN (6)
6:30 Cartoons 8:00 Surprise Garden 8:35 Professor Iris 9:00 Robinson Sucro 9:30 Kofiko 9:45 Kofiko 10:10 Alice in Wonderland 10:45 Nils Holgerson 11:20 Shavut at Kibbutz Yakum - with Ofel Menashe and Michal Arzi 11:55 Step by Step 12:35 Sweet Valley High 13:00 Time

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VOICE OF MUSIC
6:06 Morning Concert 9:05 Haydn: Symphony no 31 "Hornsignal" (St. Luke/Mackerras); Bach: Concerto in C minor for oboe, strings and continuo; Schubert: Quintet in C for strings op 163; Prokofiev: 3 pieces op 59, Suite on waltzes by Schubert; Brahms: Symphony no 3 (Vernia, PCJ/Barnstein) 19:00 Noon with Gideon Hod - familiar music and jazz 14:06 Encore - 16:00 Voice of Music magazine 16:00 William Boyce: Solomon serahada (soloists/Parley of Instruments choir and orch/Godman); Mozart: Divertimento in D for 2 violins, cello and 2 horns K334 (320b) (L'Archibald); 18:05 New CDs - soprano Kathleen Battle in arias from operas by Donizetti, Thomas, Berlioz, Charpentier, Massenet, Offenbach; last-minute acquisitions 20:05 Celebration of Music in Abu Ghosh - live broadcast. Rheinsche Kantorei. Works by Schutz, De Castro, Schein, Bach 23:00 From the Record Shelf

For further information, Tel. 02-202213, during working hours. Applications, including CV, should be sent to POB 92, Jerusalem 91000, no later than June 8, 1996. (Envelopes should be marked: Office of the Chairman, Candidacy for Director of the Israel Appeal) Confidentiality assured

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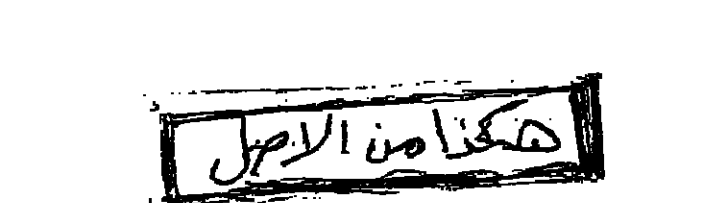
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Labor problems at airport, Interior Ministry, hospitals

HISTADRUT Chairman Amir Perez, Transport Ministry Director-General Eliahu and Finance Ministry Director-General David Brodet will meet today in an attempt to solve the crisis at the Airports Authority. This follows yesterday's issuance of an order preventing workers at Ben-Gurion Airport from continuing their sanctions by the Tel Aviv Labor Court. The sanctions, called in a dispute over pension rights, delayed the takeoff of 16 flights and stopped ground services to those that landed, as workers took time off from their jobs to attend union meetings. Even before the court order was issued, the union had determined that at the end of its information meeting, the workers would go back to work. Meanwhile, representatives of the Interior Ministry workers' union and the Treasury will meet with an arbiter this morning in an effort to resolve the dispute over wages and work conditions that has led to ongoing sanctions. Nonetheless, the workers will continue to refuse providing services to the public. There will also be difficulties at hospitals throughout the country today, because of a strike of public sector pharmacists. The pharmacists are seeking an immediate resumption of negotiations with the Treasury and their employers over pay grade determination. All pharmaceutical services at government hospitals and Kupat Holim Clalit clinics will stop, except for those involving emergency care and oncology or dialysis patients. (Tum)

Maccabi, Meuhedet health funds in talks on unifying some services

FINANCIALLY pressed as a result of the national health insurance system, the Maccabi and Meuhedet health funds said yesterday that they were examining ways to unify some services and save money without causing a decline in the level of medical care to members. Maccabi, the second largest public health insurer, and Meuhedet, the smallest of the four, are looking into unifying medical services in outlying areas, as well as cooperating in computer, pharmacy and other facilities around the country. These discussions were speeded up recently due to government "discrimination" against them and "the cutting of budgets that were supposed to be spent on the health and benefits of Maccabi and Meuhedet members." Meuhedet alone has an annual deficit of NIS 100 million, of which only 60% has been covered by the Treasury. Joint working groups are preparing recommendations whose aims, the two funds said, were to improve services and cut expenses. These recommendations will be brought to the public management of the two insurers. A Meuhedet spokeswoman said there are no plans to close any existing health fund branches. No explanation was given for why Leumit, the Likud-affiliated, third-largest health fund, was not included in the discussions. Kupat Holim Clalit, the largest insurer, has benefited most from the national health insurance system (due to increased compensation for its disproportionately elderly membership) and large government grants. Clalit said yesterday that it completely rejects claims by Maccabi and Meuhedet that it has received preferential treatment from the government regarding health budgets. The health fund spokeswoman said that Maccabi and Meuhedet were in fact given extra help in comparison to the other two insurers. Clalit has sent its claims to the courts and to the Health and Finance ministries for discussion. Clalit, however, "welcomes all cooperation among the health funds or some of them if it is aimed at saving national resources." Meanwhile, the Health Ministry rejected claims of discrimination among the various insurers, noting that "the allocation system was set down by law." The ministry said it welcomed any idea that would increase efficiency and improve services to members if it prevented superfluous facilities and ensured competition among the health funds.



אפיקים

Juventus beats Ajax to win Champions Cup

ROME (AP)—Juventus of Turin beat Ajax of Amsterdam 4-2 on penalty kicks last night after the teams tied 1-1 after 30 minutes of supplemental time. Neither team held the upper

hand through the two scoreless 15-minute periods of extra time after ending the regulation 90 minutes with one goal apiece. Finnish striker Jari Litmanen scored in the 41st minute to bring

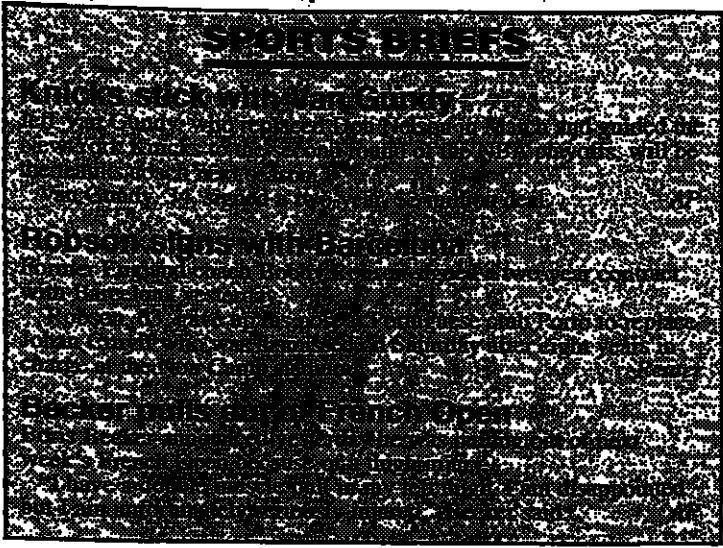
Ajax of Amsterdam level after Fabrizio Ravanelli capitalized on a defensive lapse to give Juventus a 1-0 lead after 13 minutes.

Ajax was aiming for a second straight Champions Cup title and fifth overall. Juventus won the Cup in 1985.

Litmanen, the leading scorer in the Cup competition with nine goals, slotted home a bouncing ball after Juventus goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi punched out a free kick by Ajax defender Frank de Boer.

De Boer, the Dutch international whose status for the game was in doubt due to an ankle injury, and goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar crossed signals on a loose ball in the 13th minute and each failed to clear it. Ravanelli pounced on the opportunity and rolled a slow, angled shot into the empty net.

De Boer limped off the field in the 68th minute, substituted by veteran Arnold Scholten.



Bulls tame Magic

CHICAGO (AP)—Playing poorly and looking lethargic, the Chicago Bulls seemed ready to fall. Michael Jordan wouldn't let them lose, however, and their defense lifted them to a 93-88 victory over the Orlando Magic.

Jordan scored 25 of his 35 points in the second half, when Chicago rallied from an 18-point deficit Tuesday night and take a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals. "I'm the leader of this ballclub," Jordan said. "I've got to do something if things are stagnant."

The best-of-7 series shifts to Orlando for Game 3 Saturday and Game 4 Monday. Only seven teams in NBA history have rallied from 2-0 deficits.

Orlando, humiliated by 38 points in Game 1, played much better Tuesday even without injured forward Horace Grant. But the Magic scored only 35 second-half points against the Bulls' full-court pressing and half-court trapping defense.

Shaquille O'Neal, who had 36 points and 16 rebounds, bulled his way past Luc Longley for a short hook shot to give the Magic a 64-46 lead with 6:17 left in the third

quarter. But unable to solve the Bulls' defense, Orlando missed 11 of 12 shots and committed five turnovers during the next 10 minutes as Chicago used a 26-5 run to take a 72-69 lead early in the fourth quarter. Jordan had nine points during the surge.

Orlando came back to take an 81-79 lead on O'Neal's layup with four minutes left, but the Bulls scored the next nine points—15-foot jumpers by Jordan and Steve Kerr, two free throws by Randy Brown, a foul shot by Dennis Rodman and a layup by Scottie Pippen—for an 88-81 advantage with 41 seconds left.

Jordan wrapped up the win with four free throws. Pippen had 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. Rodman added a season-high 15 points and 12 rebounds.

NBA CONFERENCE FINALS
TUESDAY'S RESULTS:
Chicago 93, Orlando 88
(Chicago leads series 2-0)
TOMORROW NIGHT:
Seattle at Utah
(Seattle leads series 2-0)

Colorado stops Detroit

DETROIT (AP)—Colorado goaltender Patrick Roy continued to frustrate Detroit as the Avalanche defeated the Red Wings 3-0 Tuesday night to go up 2-0 in the Western Conference finals of the NHL playoffs.

After winning an NHL-record 62 games without being shut out during the season, the Red Wings now have been blanked in regulation in three of their last six playoff games. The loss was the fourth at home in the playoffs for the Red Wings, who only dropped three at Joe Louis Arena during the entire regular season.

Joe Sakic, the leading scorer in the playoffs, Warren Rychel and Sandis Ozolinsh scored for the Avalanche.

The best-of-7 series moves to Denver for Games 3 and 4.

NHL CONFERENCE FINALS
TUESDAY'S RESULTS:
Colorado 3, Detroit 0
(Colorado leads series 2-0)
TONIGHT:
Detroit at Colorado
TOMORROW NIGHT:
Pittsburgh at Florida
(Series tied 1-1)

BASEBALL SCOREBOARD

TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS:

Kansas City 7, Detroit 1
Seattle 13, Boston 7
New York 7, Oakland 3
Chicago 2, Toronto 1
Cleveland 6, Milwaukee 5
Minnesota 4, Texas 3
California 5, Baltimore 2

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS:

San Francisco 8, Montreal 5
Chicago 4, Atlanta 2
Florida 3, Cincinnati 2
St. Louis 8, Houston 2
Colorado 12, Pittsburgh 10
Los Angeles 6, New York 4
Philadelphia 5, San Diego 4

Jerusalem Post Softball League

A Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Zorinous	16	0	1.000	-
Global Financial	14	1	.933	1.5
Arch Seminars	10	5	.667	5.5
Shari Tel Tigers	10	6	.625	6
Norman's Steakhouse	8	5	.615	6.5
Rashi Furniture	6	6	.500	8
Crazy Richards	5	9	.359	10
Showra Cubs	2	12	.143	13

B Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Aztek Glomers	6	7	.462	-
Vision Center	6	9	.400	1
Kalra Patrols	5	8	.385	1
Hassid Benny	4	10	.286	2
Nir Media	4	10	.286	2.5
Kibutz Gass	3	11	.214	3.5

One Vote for the Prime Minister, and One to Keep Him in the Center

On Wednesday, May 29, everyone will have two votes - one for prime minister and one to free him from the extremists in his camp and to enable him to set up the responsible, centrist government which the majority of the nation wants:

- 1 A government which will further the peace process through a willingness to compromise, but which will emphasize the country's security when determining the final status.
- 2 A government which will ensure that the Golan and greater Jerusalem remain under Israeli sovereignty.
- 3 A government which will relinquish control over the majority of the Palestinians and which will disengage from them for good.
- 4 A government which will maintain the Jordan Valley, Gush Etzion and the essential blocs of settlement as integral parts of Israel.

On May 29, use one vote to elect the prime minister and one to keep him in the center



Meeting in the Center

The Third Way

for National Consensus

Group call for winner not to trample losers

THANK

ממשלה

New censorship deal signed

A NEW censorship agreement was signed yesterday by Defense Minister Shimon Peres and representatives of print and broadcast journalists, replacing an earlier pact dating back to 1966.

As in the previous agreement, a three-member appeals committee will hear complaints of either the censor or the journalists, but the committee will be headed by a jurist, to be chosen jointly by the defense minister and the chairman of the Editors' Committee.

The other two members of the committee will be chosen by the chief of general staff and the Editors' Committee, in coordination with broadcast journalists.

A second change allows journalists to appeal the committee's

decision to the High Court, while the chief censor may not do so, if he disagrees with the committee.

As in the previous agreement, military censorship will only be applied in cases involving national security that have a near certainty of hurting Israel's defense interests.

"I promise that in the new Middle East there will be no need for censorship," Defense Minister Shimon Peres quipped.

The agreement was signed by Peres, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, Yair Stern, representative of the Editors' Committee; Alter Wilner, secretary of the committee; and representatives of Ha'aretz and Yediot Aharonot, which do not belong to the Editors' Committee. (IUm)



Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Editors' Committee head Yair Stern sign the new censorship agreement yesterday in Tel Aviv. (IUm Oryadriver/Israel Sim)

Massive manhunt launched for murder suspect

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE have launched a massive hunt for Amiram Hochberg, wanted in connection with the murder of Ida Bleichman, whose body was found in her Rehovot apartment on Monday night.

Yesterday police found the car belonging to Shlomit Bleichman, the victim's daughter and Hochberg's girlfriend, on a Rehovot street. Inside the car, which was full of blood stains, was a blood-stained towel. A woman's handbag, containing sunglasses and other personal items, was also found discovered in the car.

Police searched the orange groves and fields in the Rehovot area for clues that could lead them to Bleichman, Hochberg, or their son Itai, 12. Police have checked with airport and port police and found that they have not left the country under their real names.

The couple had fought over their son, said sources, and Ida Bleichman also objected to the relationship between her daughter and Hochberg. Police are looking for a white GMC van, license 279-53-18, which was rented on May 14 by Hochberg and which was not returned.

Court to State: Explain indictment despite illegal wiretapping

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice gave the state 15 days to explain why it should be allowed to indict attorney Mordechai Katz after allegedly wiretapping him illegally.

The state wants to indict Katz for obstructing justice, charging that he transferred hush money from Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrodi to accused wiretappers Rafi Friedan and Ya'acov Tsur.

The money was meant to stop Friedan and Tsur from revealing that Nimrodi had commissioned them to do illegal wiretaps.

In order to get information against Katz, the state obtained court permission to wiretap his office phone. However, Katz

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Saturday 25/5
Jerusalem Theater (JT) Sherover Hybrid. Semola Theater. 9 p.m.: Henry Crown jazz. Paul Motian Trio. 9:30 p.m.
The plaza - Exhibition of ballroom dancing. 10:30 p.m. FREE
JT foyer - Jazz club. Jerusalem Jazz Band. 11 p.m. FREE
Givat Ram - Wise Aud. classical. Lincoln Center Chamber Ensemble. 9:15 p.m.
Targ Music Cr. - Pianorama. 11 a.m.
Kfar Saba - Municipal Aud. International Student Chamber Orchestra. 9 p.m.

Court refuses to lower sentence of abused son who killed dad

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court refused yesterday to reduce the sentence of a man who killed his father after years of abuse, saying a sentence of 10 years was merciful enough.

Shahar Hadad, 23, was one of five children whose father, Zacharia, had abused them physically and emotionally for the past 20 years. Zacharia also abused his wife, who filed several complaints with the police.

In response to most of these complaints, the police did nothing but talk to Zacharia; the one time an indictment was filed, the court let him off with a suspended sentence. His wife also asked for a divorce, but Zacharia refused.

Shahar, according to his family's testimony, became his financial and emotional mainstay. It was he who bought shoes and clothes for his two younger brothers, and gave them the emotional support they needed.

He even read psychology texts for advice on how to help his brothers overcome the trauma of abuse.

The murder occurred when Zacharia raised a scene during Shahar's sister's wedding. Shahar told him to be quiet, and the two got into a fight which continued

after they returned to their Dimona home. At one point, Zacharia left the room. Shahar then grabbed the gun belonging to his brother, who was on leave from the army, and shot Zacharia.

He immediately turned himself into the police and was remanded, at which point he suffered a severe nervous breakdown and spent several months in a psychiatric hospital.

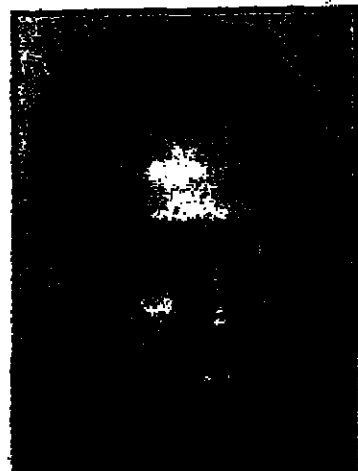
The psychiatrists at the hospital said the breakdown appeared to have been caused by his deep remorse. When he recovered, he stood trial. As a result of a plea bargain, he was charged with manslaughter rather than murder, and sentenced to 10 years, but the sen-

tence caused a relapse, which resulted in him spending another several months in the prison's psychiatric ward. He then appealed his sentence.

Justices Ya'akov Kedmi, Yitzhak Zamir and Eliczer Goldberg all said that neither the abuse, Shahar's basically decent character nor the inaction of the police and courts merited a reduction of the sentence, because of the need to uphold the sanctity of human life and to discourage other abused children from taking the law into their own hands.

Ten years was already merciful, they said, since he could have gotten life for murder or 20 years for manslaughter.

Goldberg said he would have



Shahar Hadad (photo: Elyan) reduced the sentence to seven years because of Shahar's mental illness, but Kedmi and Zamir overruled him.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 20-27
Tel Aviv 20-27
Haifa 18-25
Beersheva 18-25
Dead Sea 25-38

Forecast: Hazy and dry, then usual. Friday & Sabbath: Partly cloudy to clear. Gradual drop in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High
London	10	15
Paris	11	16
Rome	12	17
Moscow	8	13
Beijing	15	20
Tokyo	16	21
Sydney	18	23
Auckland	15	20
Los Angeles	17	22
San Francisco	16	21
New York	18	23
Chicago	17	22
Hong Kong	24	29
Manila	26	31
Delhi	28	33
Bombay	29	34
Calcutta	30	35
Madras	31	36
Colombo	27	32
Perth	19	24
Auckland	15	20
Wellington	14	19
Dunedin	13	18
Christchurch	12	17
Canberra	11	16
Sydney	18	23
Melbourne	17	22
Brisbane	19	24
Perth	18	23
Adelaide	17	22
Hobart	16	21
Wellington	14	19
Dunedin	13	18
Christchurch	12	17
Canberra	11	16
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YOU DECIDE WHERE PERES WILL GO

In another week, we begin a 4 year term, when everything will be decided. As the election campaign draws to a close, I turn to you and with your permission, to your conscience:

Please don't waste your second ballot paper on a coalition which will return us to the bad old days. Don't allow Peres to go first to the religious parties. It depends only on the size of Meretz and the size of Meretz depends on you.

Meretz is going from strength to strength, our voters are coming back home. But eight or nine seats is not enough. With eight or nine seats we will not be able to stand firm against all the others.

Only a strong Meretz will be the first and senior partner of the next government.

Vote Peres - because there is no other candidate.
Vote Meretz - because there is no other Meretz.

GIVE MERETZ STRENGTH!

Yossi Sarid, Minister of the Environment, Chairman.